

# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

*Residents Not Enthused*

## Candidates For Mayor Throw Us a Few Bones at James Lick

*By Kathy Dalle-Molle*

There was a mayoral candidates' debate in Noe Valley on Oct. 17, but you would hardly have known it if you were one of the 500 neighbors who packed the James Lick School auditorium to watch the candidates square off.

By the time the program concluded at 9:30 p.m., six candidates had come and gone at their whim, treating the debate more like a casual cocktail party than a commitment they'd had on their calendars since August.

Their behavior left many residents of Noe Valley—a neighborhood known for its high voter turnout—disillusioned and disappointed.

"Do they think so little of Noe Valley that they can't show up on time?" asked audience member Jessica Drate. "I can understand the candidates having other commitments, but I don't think it's right that they arrived so late."

"It really struck a sour note with me that the candidates were so late," said Don Kern, who helped organize the program, sponsored by seven neighborhood groups in the area. "I thought it was very unprofessional and uncaring."

*Continued on Page 7*



*Church Street's Hall Realty was well disguised as a porn shop during the filming of Sister Act last month. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP*

## Church St. Looking for Oscar in Disney Movie

*By Kathy Dalle-Molle*

Hall Realty's tenants were caught off guard last month when they went to drop off their rent checks at the agency's Church Street office and found an X-rated adult bookstore in its place.

"The tenants saw the [porn shop] sign and didn't dare leave their rent," said proprietor Mary Hall. "We got a lot of calls from people asking us where we

moved to. Some people called to tell us how horrified they were about what had become of the neighborhood!"

Hall said one tenant even mailed her rent check in an envelope addressed to "Hall Realty and Sex Shoppe." Another sent his check in care of "Hall Realty and Videos?"

The tenants were but a few of the San Francisco residents fooled by the artistry of Walt Disney Studios, which had trans-

formed the strip of stores and homes on Church between Valley and 29th streets into the washed-up neighborhood featured in the studio's upcoming \$20 million Whoopi Goldberg flick, *Sister Act*.

"There was a lot of confusion at the start of filming," said Day Street resident Matty Person. "People were asking, 'Oh,

*Continued on Page 22*

## The Best Streets for Trick-or-Treat

*By Laura Holland*

Noe Valley is definitely a Halloween-friendly place, judging from the droves of little costumed creatures who take to the neighborhood's streets every year.

Just after sunset on Oct. 31, you can see a parade of ghosts and goblins, gingerly mounting the steps of our Victorian row houses—the ones with pumpkin faces aglow on window sills, skeletons in doorways, and giant spiders lurking in unexpected corners. And when they ring the bell and deliver that age-old challenge, "Trick or treat!", the kids are almost always greeted by friendly faces and handfuls of goodies.

Just about every Noe Valley family has a favorite trick-or-treat route.

Janet Posada, who has four children ranging in age from 4 to 17, likes to begin the trek where she lives at 28th and Dolores, then move on to cover Church and Sanchez streets from 30th to 24th.

"I've been doing it for 17 years, and have never had a problem," she says. "Some houses are not lit, but my children always get enough candy!"

*Continued on Page 2*



*Be it ever so haunted, the Hoffman Avenue home of Marilyn Lucas (in doorway) is a favorite stop for such neighborhood creatures as Ismael Aparicio (disguised as Freddy Krueger), Heidi Shadel (Little Red Riding Hood), Reynaldo Aparicio (Big Bad Wolf), and Darlene Shadel (Little Red's grandmother). PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD.*



# Trick-or-Treat

Continued from Page 1

Karen Bagshaw and her kids, Emily, 7, and Jake, 10, have found Sanchez Street between 26th and 30th, plus the flatter side streets, not only candy-full but also creatively done up. A number of residents dress in costume and pull out all the stops for their visitors, including ghoulish props, wicked cackles, smoldering dry ice, and scary background music.

"It's a real friendly holiday around here," says Bagshaw. "And if it's warm, lots of people are out front to see the neighbor children. One little old lady even took pictures of every child who came to her door last year."

Rosie Cremeans, who lives at Noe and Valley streets and is the mother of three children, ages 21, 19, and 12, spends most of the day before Halloween in her kitchen making popcorn balls. "When I was little, a lady two doors up from us always had popcorn balls, and we always went there first because we knew she'd run out," recalls Cremeans.

"When she passed on, I decided to make them myself for family and friends. Then last year I made them for trick-or-treaters. I had some candy, too, but most parents felt okay about their children taking my popcorn balls, especially since each one had my name and address in the wrapper."

Cremeans, who was married in a Victorian costume, never bypasses an opportunity to dress up. This year she'll be decked out as a friendly witch, unless she gets some other last-minute inspiration.

On the north side of 24th Street, Castro Street residents Luita Persyko and her two children have found some nearby streets to be especially appealing. "There are always a lot of kids on 23rd Street between Castro and Noe, and on Alvarado between those same blocks," she says. "Alvarado between Noe and Sanchez is also busy."

Not far from there, on Hoffman Avenue between 24th and Elizabeth streets, Noe Valley's own "Haunted House Lady," Marilyn Lucas, will be creating Halloween fun for the 11th year in a row.

Lucas says she has always loved donning a disguise on Hallow's Eve, and designing a frightful environment for those who come knocking at her door. But her real claim to Halloween fame is that she masterminded the "Fun and Safe" annual haunted house which started at the Noe Valley Ministry in 1980.

When the event outgrew the Ministry space in 1985, Lucas worked for three years with the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department to enhance its existing haunted house at the Upper Noe Recreation Center. (This year's Upper Noe "Scare House" will be open from 6 to 9 p.m. at the rec center at Day and

Sanchez streets.)

Last October, Lucas returned to her home as the base for a mini-haunted house in her garage.

"This year we have an all new mini-haunted house, with the true story of Little Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Wolf," she says, plus a mysterious "Is Freddy Really Dead?" exhibit. Lucas said she and her cohorts would be getting out their Dead Freddy supplies on Oct. 25, and were looking forward to resurrecting everybody's favorite corpse.

The first 300 children to reach Lucas' house (in the 300 block of Hoffman) will receive a bag of candy and a small toy. The doors will be creaking open from 5 to 8:30 p.m.

Some parents of very young children may want to consider the Halloween alternative chosen by Peter Sownie, Nancy Jensvold, and their now 3-year-old

daughter Carrie. Rather than going door-to-door trick-or-treating, or attending an organized event, they arrange to stop by the homes of a few neighborhood friends who've been tipped off to Carrie's visitation.

"We all had a nice time last year, and we may keep with the small scale this year, too," says Sownie.

Some neighborhood residents actually leave town to take their kids trick-or-treating in suburban areas outside of San Francisco, where there are blocks and blocks of single-family homes to descend upon.

To each his own, as the old saying goes. But those who choose to remain here in Noe Valley will get plenty of excitement. In fact, they'll probably receive such ghastly treatment, they'll be back to haunt us again next year. □

## LETTERS 29¢

### Belly Dancing in the Proper Perspective

Editor:

I would like to thank the *Noe Valley Voice* for publishing "Belly Dancing, an Exercise for Every Body," in the October issue. I found Barbara Austen's description of my class very colorful and accurate in the mood it creates; however, I noted that a few statements were quoted out of their cultural context.

Men have never danced in the temples of the Middle East. They took to dancing in mockery of women in the streets of the Middle East when the banishment of deity worship discredited the female temple dancers.

Also, the caption under the photo, which stated that "Carolena Nericcio conducts her belly dance classes at the Noe Valley Ministry in authentic Middle Eastern style—which means she encourages men as well as women to give it a whirl," is misleading. Authentic Middle Eastern style has nothing to do with whether men study the dance. The authenticity of the style has to do with respect for the dance, music, and culture of the Middle East and North Africa, no matter which gender whirls.



In addition, it is not the "spontaneity" of belly dance that often leaves it outside the world of "true dance forms." It is the

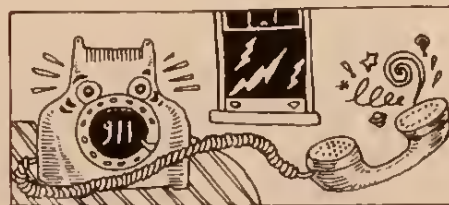
fact that belly dance is often performed in professional settings by non-professionals. Belly dance is truly a crossover form. It is enjoyed both in the privacy of the family setting, as well as on the public stage. However, the professionalism and training of the performer are often overlooked as a prerequisite for public viewing. This is not so with the more classical dance forms.

Carolena Nericcio  
Director  
FatChanceBellyDance

### Police in Video Wave Case Were Skeptical for a Reason

Editor:

I would like to express an apology to the San Francisco Police Department and specifically to the two officers who responded to an attempted hold-up call at Video Wave on Aug. 19.



Last month's story in the *Voice* ("Two Robbery Episodes Test Nerves of Local Merchants") implied that the two officers who responded to a 911 call within minutes of the incident were reluctant to take the complaint seriously and failed to file a report.

I later learned that the police were skeptical because the store employee who had been held up (who had chased the gunman out of the shop and shut the door) initially told the officers he wanted to forget what had just happened and that the call had been a mistake. The police naturally thought that was curious, and questioned the employee as to his identity. The employee now acknowledges that his failure to follow through in reporting the incident right after it took place may have caused the police to doubt his word.

This incident should make us all aware of how important it is to report crimes in full when they occur.

Alexander Gardener  
Owner, Video Wave  
1431 Castro St.



### THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

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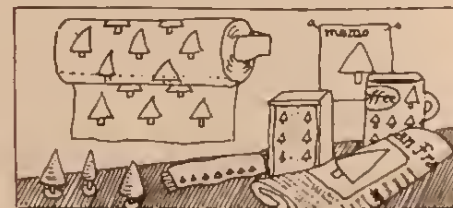
### Student Ecology Club On the Paper Trail

Editor:

The students in the Ecology Club at Ben Franklin Middle School, 1430 Scott St., have been working on several environmental projects in Noe Valley, the Mission, and other neighborhoods.

Recently, the students designed small laminated signs reminding people to conserve napkins and paper towels. Several coffeehouses and stores, including the San Francisco Coffee Company, the Meat Market Coffeehouse, Real Food Company, Holey Bagel, Spinelli's, and Rory's Twisted Scoop, have been willing to display the signs. The students still have about 50 signs to distribute throughout San Francisco.

The project began when students noticed the mounds of paper towels tossed in public restrooms and the huge quantity of napkins people were wasting at restaurants. As one youngster said, "It only takes one paper towel to dry your hands



and only one napkin to wipe your mouth." The students are trying to remind people that wasted paper means more garbage and also loss of precious trees.

Please keep your eyes open for the signs and help protect our planet by following the students' advice. Thanks.

Paula Ginsberg  
20th Street

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# Residents Still Questioning Cancer Rates During 1980s

By Denise Minor

Even though the city's Health Department closed the books in 1989 on its study of cancer rates among Noe and Eureka Valley children, the issue has continued to simmer in many people's minds.

After investigating the environment of 28 of the 57 children diagnosed with cancer in the area from 1981 to 1987, the department concluded that a "cancer cluster," which appeared in the early 1980s, was most likely a statistical anomaly. (Between 1980 and 1985, 14 cases of cancer were recorded among Noe/Eureka children under 5 years of age—more than double the number expected for the neighborhoods' population.)

Recent evidence implicating electromagnetic radiation as a possible carcinogen has brought the cancer issue to the forefront again, and this time some Noe Valley residents are questioning what appears to them to be a high incidence of cancer among adults as well.

"It just seems weird to me," said Susan Zakin, who recently moved from her apartment at 511 Eureka St. "In the house to the left of me, a man died of bone cancer. In the house to the right, a woman had breast cancer. Another neighbor had two dogs in a row die of cancer, and the dogs weren't related."

Zakin said she became concerned when she realized that she and the two women in the apartment downstairs were going to doctors for treatment of the same problems: chronic fatigue and severe vaginitis.

"The doctor told me that severe vaginitis is one of the first signs of a breakdown in the immune system of a woman," Zakin said. "The strange thing was that every time I left home for a little while, my physical problems cleared up."

Zakin has since moved to Arizona, for both career and health reasons. Until this fall, she lived for five years just a block from Alvarado Elementary School, 625 Douglass St., where in the last decade six school employees were reported to have died of cancer.

Concern over the deaths prompted one teacher to arrange in September for an electrical engineer to measure the electromagnetic fields stemming from PG&E transformers in front of the school.

As reported in the October 1991 issue of the *Voice*, the engineer, Peter Frech, found the electromagnetic emissions outside the school to be well below the level considered a health hazard. After completing his measurements, Frech, who is a member of a San Ramon-based group Citizens Concerned About Electromag-



For residents concerned about cancer rates in the area, Sutro Tower, perched on Twin Peaks, has long been a target of suspicion. But investigators say the radio waves emanating from the tower are well below the levels considered dangerous. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

netic Fields, said he was more concerned about radio transmissions from Sutro Tower than the power lines near the school.

But the electrical emissions from Sutro Tower are also below the level considered dangerous, according to Dr. Raymond Neutra, chief of the Special Epidemiological Studies Program at the University of California, Berkeley.

"I've been on a working group with Bill Lee of the San Francisco Health Department, and we measured all around Sutro Tower," said Neutra. "Except for right around the base of the tower, there were very low levels [of radio electromagnetic waves]."

The new U.S. standard for radio waves is 200 microwatts per centimeter squared, he said. Bill Lee, who heads up the Health Department's Toxic Control division, said that Noe Valley's levels were between .5 and 1.5 microwatts per centimeter squared.

Neutra cautioned that any attempt to pinpoint a cause of cancer in a neighborhood was extremely difficult. "It's not like Legionnaires' disease," he said. "In only one out of every 100 cancer clusters studied is the cause found."

In an article published in the July 1990 *American Journal of Epidemiology* titled, "Counterpoint from a Cluster Buster,"

Neutra elaborated on the reasons that neighborhood cancer clusters are so elusive. One is the migration of residents, and another is the long and indefinite incubation period of some types of cancer.

What's more, most of the cancer clusters which appear to be statistically significant when first discovered, usually turn out to be chance events over time. "Most of the giants which loom over us public health Don Quixotes are really windmills," Neutra wrote. "But when the rare real giant ambles by, we usually do not have the tools to recognize her."

Nevertheless, the issue still remains—is there an abnormally high incidence of cancer in Noe Valley? Dr. Eva Glazer, director of the Berkeley office of the California Tumor Registry, hopes to be able to answer that question in two to three months.

"We have a backlog of groups waiting to find out the same kind of thing," said Glazer. "But if there is concern in your neighborhood, I will certainly compile the statistics."

The registry keeps track of all California cancer deaths, by addresses and types of cancer of the victims. At the request of the *Voice*, Glazer said her office would compile a list of all cancer victims over the past decade in the Noe and Eureka Valley census tracts—the ones that were

originally studied by the Health Department. The list will include all ages, adults as well as children.

In the meantime, Glazer advised local residents not to be alarmed if when talking to friends and neighbors, they discovered what seemed to be a high number of cancer cases on their block. "Cancer is not uncommon," Glazer pointed out. "Six employees at a school dying of cancer over a 10-year period may not be out of the ordinary," she said.

Glazer noted that one out of three people in the U.S. currently suffers from cancer at some time during his or her lifetime, and that that figure does not include skin cancer. About 50 percent of those diagnosed with cancer die from it, she said.

The incidence of cancer in the San Francisco Bay Area is 383 diagnoses a year per 100,000 people, while the incidence in California as a whole is 341 per 100,000.

"One reason that the Northern California rate appears high by comparison is that the cancer rate for the entire state is brought down by the large Hispanic population in the southern part of the state," Glazer said. "The cancer rate is much lower among the Latin population."

At least one Noe Valley resident will be anxious to see the new data from the Tumor Registry. Marc Norton of 29th Street, who has a child at Alvarado, has closely followed the neighborhood cancer cluster issue since it first came to light in 1988.

"I don't think the Health Department did a real investigation in the first place," said Norton, a computer technician for San Francisco School Volunteers. "It was more like a public relations campaign to convince people there wasn't a cancer cluster."

As detailed in the November 1990 *Voice*, one of the reasons the Health Department concluded that the early-1980s cancer cluster may have been a statistical fluke was that the incidence of childhood cancer in Noe and Eureka valleys dropped significantly after 1985. Only one case of childhood cancer was recorded in the area between 1986 and 1989.

Norton would like to see the Tumor Registry's newest statistics in order to analyze whether that trend has continued. And he's also calling for a study to be done of children from outside the neighborhood who attend school in Noe Valley. "I'd like to see them go out to Visitacion Valley and tell the parents that there may be a cancer cluster in Noe Valley, but don't worry, your kids are only there six or seven hours a day," Norton said.

Dr. Duncan Saunders, the city epidemiologist who conducted the original study of the Noe/Eureka cancer cluster, left his post at the San Francisco Health Department in 1989. His replacement, Dr. Alvaro Garza, chief of non-infectious epidemiology, said that he had been informed of the cancer cluster, but since he was not involved in the earlier study, he was unable to respond to specific questions or criticisms at this time. □

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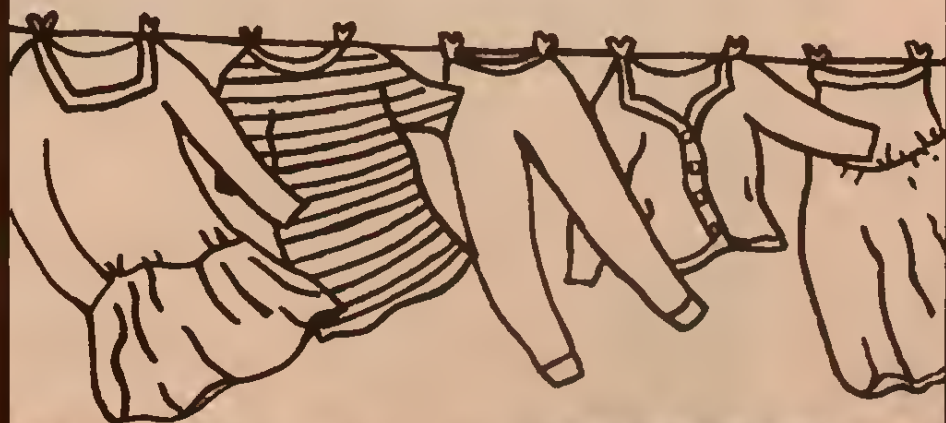
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9 am – 10 am	Stretch
10 am – 11 am	Low Impact
12 noon – 1 pm	Low Impact
1 pm – 2 pm	Pre/Post Natal
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Karate for Kids
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Low Impact
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Step
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Aerobics
7:30 – 8:30 pm	Low Impact (M/W)

7 am – 8 am	Muscles
8 am – 9 am	Low Impact
9 am – 10 am	Step
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Low Impact
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Step
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Aerobics
7:30 – 8:30 pm	Muscles +

8 am – 9 am	Low Impact
9 am – 10 am	Step
10 am – 11:15 am	Low Impact
11:15 am–12:30 pm	Step
1 pm – 2 pm	Pre/Post Natal
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Circuit Step

8:30 am – 9:30 am	Stretch
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10:30 am – 11:30 am	Low Impact
11:30 am – 12:30 am	Muscles
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Step

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# Traffic Planners Crack Down on 24th Street Double-Parkers

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

PG&E's boisterous jackhammering of Noe Valley streets and Walt Disney Studios' invasive fleet of trailers near St. Paul's Church gave most neighbors reason to push their traffic-panic buttons last month.

But John Stalp, who heads up the Friends of Noe Valley Planning Committee, has some good news to spread about neighborhood traffic conditions.

Since May, Stalp and his six committee members have been working with the San Francisco Department of Parking and Traffic to devise solutions to the ever-increasing traffic congestion and parking woes in Noe Valley, particularly along 24th Street, the neighborhood's main commercial thoroughfare.

On a summer walk-through of the street, Stalp and representatives from Parking and Traffic found that double-parking of commercial trucks and lack of parking space were two of the most pressing issues.

In mid-August, they arranged for parking control officers to begin patrolling 24th Street more frequently between 7 and 11 a.m.—peak hours for commercial drop-offs—to discourage truck drivers from double-parking while making deliveries.

Meter-minders have also been cracking down on drivers of non-commercial vehicles who illegally park in 30-minute yellow loading zones.

"Some of the commercial vehicles were double-parking because non-legitimate commercial trucks were in the loading zones," noted Jerry Robbins of the Department of Parking and Traffic.

Parking officers now carefully monitor the loading zones—regularly chalking truck tires and citing drivers who exceed the time limit or park illegally in the restricted spaces.

Although the department has yet to release figures on the success of these moves, Stalp feels "the double-parking problem has disappeared for now."

"A few months ago, seven or eight trucks would be blocking 24th Street every morning," he said, "but that is no longer the case."

Stalp adds cautiously, "This is a chronic problem, though. We cannot let up or it will be back."

Double-parking near the Bank of America, Wells Fargo, and other local bank branches is also a common—and problematic—occurrence along 24th Street. Typically, the culprits are residents in need of a quick cash infusion from the banks' automatic teller machines.

Within the next couple of months, at the urging of Friends of Noe Valley, the city hopes to try out a possible solution: reintroducing 15-minute meters in front of the bank branches. Wells Fargo, in the block of 24th between Noe and Castro, will most likely serve as the initial test site. The Parking Department plans to set up a time-lapse camera across the



Friends of Noe Valley member John Stalp (left) and city transportation planner Jerry Robbins hope that the installation of 15-minute meters at sites like this one (in front of the Wells Fargo ATMs) may help eliminate traffic tie-ups on 24th Street. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

street from Wells to monitor drivers' use of the short-term spaces.

A couple of years ago, when the ATMs were still in their infancy, the Board of Supervisors voted to abolish all meters with less than 30 minutes of parking time. At the time, Supervisor Richard Hongisto reasoned about the decision, "There is nothing people can do in 15 minutes."

If the experimental 15-minute meters reduce congestion in front of Wells Fargo, the Friends and the Department of Parking and Traffic will ask the Board of Supervisors to consider amending the city traffic code to once again include 15-minute meters.

For a variety of traffic and safety considerations, Friends of Noe Valley since early summer has been pushing for an extension of the one-way portion of 23rd Street (currently Church to Chattanooga) to Dolores Street. According to Stalp, over 65 residents of 23rd and Chattanooga streets signed petitions in support of the change.

However, at a Parking and Traffic hearing held in mid-September, some Noe Valley neighbors voiced opposition to the extension, and presented their own petition with about 30 signatures. Consequently, last month the Parking and Traffic Department denied Friends of Noe Valley's request.

Robbins explained that the department is reluctant to approve a change unless it has the nearly unanimous support of the

affected residents. "There was no one voice from the community about the issue, and there were no overriding arguments about traffic or safety conditions on either side," he said.

Stalp says Friends may reintroduce the one-way plan next year, once traffic signals are installed at 23rd and Church and 23rd and Dolores, as replacements for the flashing red lights currently at those sites.

"The opposition might see the change in a broader context at that point—that the one-way extension could significantly improve traffic flow in the neighborhood," Stalp said. "This time around, they [the residents who opposed the plan] were looking at the situation as just another one-way street."

Clipper Street Residents for Safety, an offshoot of Friends of Noe Valley, has been working throughout the year to alleviate traffic congestion along their street, which serves as the east-west thoroughfare linking Noe Valley and Diamond Heights.

Although increased monitoring of the street by motorcycle officers and the installation of additional speed limit signs have cut the number of accidents on Clipper, speeding cars and off-duty Muni buses (called "deadheaders") are still a problem, according to local residents.

"Most of the time, the drivers ignore the posted speed limit and stop signs, and [fail to watch out for] residents trying to enter or exit their driveways," said res-

ident Don Kern.

Kern pointed out that although commercial vehicles are permitted to use Clipper, off-duty Muni vehicles are not. He said that during June and July he had reported 10 "deadheading" incidents along Clipper to Muni Deputy General Manager Kathy Gilbert.

Since then, Gilbert has issued memos to bus drivers forbidding them from after-hours use of Clipper Street, and has beefed up supervisory monitoring in the area.

"I think the situation seems to be improving," said Gilbert, noting that she received no complaints from Clipper residents during September and at press time had received only one complaint in October.

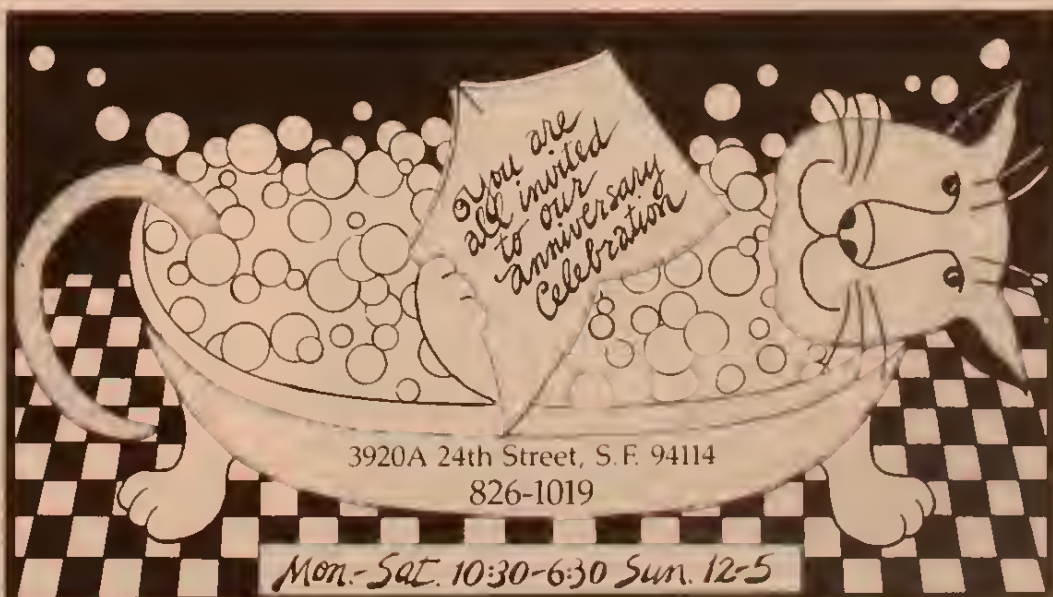
Residents who spot a "deadheading" bus on Clipper should call the Muni complaint line at 923-6164 between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Residents should report the date and time of the incident, the direction the bus was driving, and the bus's four-digit identification number, which appears on the vehicle's front and rear.

Those who'd like to join the Friends of Noe Valley's traffic team should contact John Stalp at 824-7234. Or if Clipper Street is a pet peeve, call Les Cowan of Clipper Street Residents for Safety at 641-6033. □



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# Renters Try to Turn Apartments into Condos Via Prop. N

By Denise Minor

A little-known proposition spearheaded by some Diamond Heights residents could, if passed, substantially alter the city's real estate landscape.

Supporters say the measure, which appears as Proposition N on the Nov. 5 election ballot, would give moderate-income San Franciscans a chance to do what has become in the last decade a privilege of the well-to-do: own a home. Detractors say it is a thinly-disguised piece of self-interest legislation, which would allow apartment complex owners to reap large profits from condo-ized buildings.

The proposition is a condominium conversion bill sponsored by a group of tenants at Village Square, a 154-unit complex on Diamond Heights Boulevard.

Last spring, a handful of the tenants approached the complex owner, Zev Ben Simon, to propose that they be allowed to purchase their apartments.

"He loved the idea," said John Eaton, one of the tenants. "But we found out that under the current condominium conversion law, we wouldn't be able to do it." (Under present statutes, only certain types of buildings can be converted to condos, and the number of conversions is limited to 200 units a year.)

So the tenants formed an organization called Renters for Home Ownership, drafted an amendment to the current condo law, and convinced supervisors Bill Maher, Jim Gonzalez, Willie Kennedy, and Tom Hsieh to place it on the November ballot.

Prop. N states that if an apartment complex owner and a majority of its residents support conversion, the process could then be initiated. There would be no limit on the number of units or type of buildings converted.

"Fifty-one percent of the tenants have to approve of the conversion," said Eaton. "That doesn't mean that all those approving of conversion have to buy a place. The renters who want to stay renters will receive a lifetime lease. They cannot be evicted."

Those tenants wishing to buy could do

so at 75 percent of the market value. Instead of a 20 percent down payment, they would only have to put down 10 percent. Eaton explained that a unit which would normally sell for \$200,000 could be purchased for \$150,000, with a down payment of only \$15,000. Mortgages in most cases would be only slightly higher than the average monthly rent, he said.

Banks are willing to finance the loans, said Eaton, because they will be fulfilling requirements of the state's Community Reinvestment Act, which requires banks to invest a certain percentage of money in affordable housing.

Even though the measure represents a big change in the condo law, Noe Valley would not be affected as much as some areas of the city if Prop. N passes, said realtor Paul Tollefson of B.J. Drouhi Real Estate on 24th Street. Although an estimated 70 percent of Noe Valley residents are renters, most live in two-or three-unit Edwardians, he said. Under current laws, buildings consisting of six units or less are already eligible to make a bid for condo conversion, by entering an annual lottery for the city's 200 slots.

"But there are complexes on Alvarado, Fair Oaks, and Hill streets that would fall under this proposition," said Tollefson.

Tollefson said his office had not done extensive research on Prop. N, but that "it seemed to be a good compromise between tenants' rights and the desire to create more opportunities for individuals to own their own homes."

"It would probably further advance a trend we are already seeing here in Noe Valley, that of a change in property ownership from absentee landlords to owner-occupants."

That trend benefits a community, he said, because property owners usually put more effort into the improvement of an area when they live there.

Tollefson is concerned, however, that some important issues are not clearly explained in Prop. N, and that interpretation would be left up to the courts. "For instance, there is some overlap between this proposition and the old [condo conversion] law. It has not been spelled out how they will play against each other,"

he said.

"But on the surface, it sounds like a good proposition."

John Stalp, planning committee chair for the Friends of Noe Valley, investigated Prop. N in order to advise the neighborhood group on whether to back the measure. His initial reaction was positive, he said, but after talking to Joe O'Donoghue, president of the local Residential Builders Association, he changed his mind.

"We've decided to take a hands-off attitude," said Stalp.

O'Donoghue agreed that, superficially, the measure looks good. "But in reality, this is the worst piece of legislation I've seen in years," said O'Donoghue. "And there's been plenty of garbage on the ballots."

First of all, O'Donoghue maintains that the 25 percent discount off market value is not such a bargain. When an apartment complex turns into condominiums, its value goes up 200 percent, said O'Donoghue, simply because the property has been subdivided.

"The value of the property automatically doubles just because it's a condo. Then the landlord turns around and gives a 25 percent discount," he said. "That's a rip-off."

Under Prop. N, renters would have 120 days to decide whether or not they want to buy. After that, the remaining units become condos that can be sold for 100 percent market value, even though they may have renters in them, he said.

Even though Prop. N prohibits evictions, O'Donoghue maintains that that provision may be unenforceable under current local law, because anyone who buys a property has the right to evict someone if he or she wants to use that property as his or her own residence.

In addition, O'Donoghue fears that many condo buyers would be getting themselves into a much larger financial responsibility than they bargained for.

"On top of everything, they would have to pay their condominium fee, which in the larger complexes could be as high as \$200 a month," he said. "Secondly, many tenants would be buying condo units with defects, such as a rotten

foundation or infestation. These hidden costs wouldn't come for years."

These types of issues could cause a backlash of restrictive legislation in the future, which O'Donoghue's group is afraid would negatively affect the industry. In part for that reason, the Residential Builders Association decided to take a firm stand against the proposition.

Lastly, and most importantly, O'Donoghue claims Prop. N would seriously deplete the rental market and drive rents even higher than they are. "This would take a large number of rental properties out of the market without replacing them," said O'Donoghue. "It's playing havoc with the laws of supply and demand."

Eaton dismisses that claim by saying that there may be fewer apartments for rent, but no fewer dwelling units. "Instead of having one owner of 50 units, you will have 50 owners of 50 units," said Eaton.

He also refutes O'Donoghue's claim that it may be impossible to enforce the lifetime lease guarantee. "We already have one lifetime lease guarantee on the books—the law that states that elderly and handicapped people cannot be evicted for condo conversions. This would be an extension of that law."

Eaton sees Prop. N as an answer to the quandary a large number of San Franciscans find themselves in: do you leave the city to buy a house, or stay in the city and continue renting?

"Many people in my position have two options," said Eaton. "We can continue renting and get no equity in that money we spend on rent every month, or we can move to Livermore, San Bruno, or Pacifica, where we can afford a house, then commute to work on the freeways every day."

"This proposition gives us a chance to own a home in the city we love," he said.

Supporters of Prop. N include the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and Bank of America. Opponents include the Affordable Housing Alliance, the San Francisco Housing and Tenants Council, the Small Apartment Owners Association, the Coalition for Better Housing, and the Board of Realtors. □

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# Candidates' Night Leaves Residents Shaking Their Heads

Continued from Page 1

Only socialist candidate Joni Jacobs arrived before the scheduled 7:30 p.m. start time. City Assessor Richard Hongisto didn't lag far behind, arriving at 7:40 p.m. With only Jacobs and Hongisto present, the program got under way 15 minutes late.

Chicana activist Gloria La Riva and former Police Chief Frank Jordan took the stage simultaneously at 8 p.m., but Jordan left 20 minutes later. By the time the leading candidates, Supervisor Angela Alioto and incumbent Mayor Art Agnos, strolled in—at 8:15 and 8:35 p.m., respectively—many members of the standing-room-only crowd had already written them off as no-shows.

Among the top contenders, the only real no-show was Supervisor Tom Hsieh. But Hsieh had never promised to attend. "He was in Japan for a business meeting, which had been on his schedule for six months," explained Toni Delacorte, Hsieh's press secretary.

## Voter Impressions Still Fuzzy

With the Nov. 5 election only 2½ weeks away, 50 percent of Noe Valley's 17,263 registered voters still hadn't decided on a candidate. Many residents had come to the debate hoping to be swayed by one candidate or another. Yet most left feeling they knew little more about the candidates than they did at the start of the program.

"It's impossible to know what kind of job they're going to do until after their term is over. But that's life," said Todd Green of Valley Street.

"I really didn't come away with a good feeling about any of the candidates," said Douglas Martin of 30th Street.

Holding an estimated 25 percent of the Noe Valley vote at press time, Agnos leads his opponents in the neighborhood. But while residents, like Sheila Kolenc, feel Agnos deserves a second term, others, like Carol Schlesinger, seem to be choosing him by default.

"He supports the efforts to clean up the city," said Kolenc of Noe Street. "He also supports the gay and lesbian community, which I'm part of. This is a tough city to run. He's brave to go after the office again."

"Agnos has betrayed all the people he said he'd do things for," said Schlesinger of 25th Street. "But there's no one to choose from who I think will do any better. That's the sad part."

## Socialists Blast Status Quo

Most audience members were pleased that Noe Valley allowed socialist candidates Jacobs and La Riva to participate on the panel, which was moderated by KQED Radio's Kevin Purseglove. A number of community groups that had held earlier forums, including Golden Gate University Law School and U.C. San Francisco, had limited their programs to the top five candidates.

"La Riva and Jacobs helped set the tone for this debate," said Rick Hauptman, one of the coordinators. "They weren't just going through the motions like some of the other candidates."

Fair Oaks Street resident Lisa Mam-

mel agreed that the leftists "were refreshing additions to the panel. They raised issues most candidates typically shy away from."

Yet Mammel also felt that Jacobs and La Riva lacked the plans necessary to implement their ideas. "I appreciated the ideas they brought up," she said, "but I wasn't clear on how they would put those ideas into practice."

In a strong opening statement, Jacobs called for her fellow candidates to put human needs before profits.

"San Francisco is a cruelly pro-business city, just like every other city in the country," she said. "We're so pro-business that

## At Least Hongisto Had a Plan

Perennial San Francisco government figure Richard Hongisto sounded like he'd just finished reading the businessperson's bible, *In Search of Excellence*. He advocated the restructuring and cutting of city departments by almost half, in order to reduce red tape, expand services, and eliminate the small business tax.

"Not only will city government become more manageable," he said, "but it will generate \$700 million dollars more in savings over four years, which can be used to fund vital social services."

date," she said. "I came away with a very good impression of him except for that comment. It was probably his most naive statement of the evening."

"Hongisto has more of a plan than the other candidates," said Leon Blum of Laidley Street. "He appears organized, like he's going to do something."

But some attendees were perturbed by Hongisto's constant waiving of his 23-point "Framework for Change" pamphlet.

"None of the other candidates originally produced a handout like this," Hongisto boasted at the start of the program. "Now, they're all trying to mimic me."

"This person sitting near me said he



Noe Valley residents got the opportunity to ask a few questions of Art Agnos, Angela Alioto (behind Jacobs' nameplate), Richard Hongisto, and Gloria La Riva at a candidates night at James Lick School Oct. 17. But the spaghetti dinner preceding the event proved to be the most satisfying component of the evening. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

we allow people to sleep in the streets because it costs too much to house them. We allow people to die of AIDS because it costs too much to find a cure. We allow our schools to close and deteriorate because it costs too much to maintain them. . . . We need to change all that."

Jacobs said that as mayor she would "build a movement to defend the living standards of the working class."

La Riva, citing all sorts of statistics off the top of her head—from the amount of money PG&E netted in profits last year (\$978.1 million) to the number of prisoners in California (100,000)—argued emphatically for taxing the rich, in order to improve city services.

"In 1990, the top 10 San Francisco corporations made \$6.3 billion in after-tax profits. Ten companies! These corporations have an obligation, a responsibility to put some of that money back into the city that they profited from," La Riva said.

"What the city needs is a mayor and government that represent and fight for the interests of the city residents. . . . City Hall should be a people's hall," she continued.

Hongisto described himself as "a hands-on manager who works directly with the people." And he pitched his hometown boy appeal, pointing out that he was a 42-year resident of the city. He even noted that a former member of his Boy Scout troop was in the audience.

Hongisto also proposed a shift toward policies that would "protect the neighborhoods and stop the Manhattanization of San Francisco. We need to control the growth of this city, or it will be a city that is not fit to live in," he said.

His one major faux pas of the evening occurred while answering a question about the loss of jobs in San Francisco.

"The private sector should be hiring San Franciscans, not people from Concord and Walnut Creek," he argued as audience members snickered.

Said Lisa Mammel about the comment, "The people living in Walnut Creek and Concord would probably live in San Francisco if they could afford the housing costs."

Nonetheless, Mammel and other audience members seemed to like what Hongisto had to say.

"I thought he was the strongest candi-

was going to kill Hongisto if he showed those pamphlets one more time," remarked one audience member.

## Jordan Doesn't Find Sanctuary Here

Because the candidates only had time to answer two questions during the 20 minutes that Frank Jordan was in attendance, some audience members complained that they didn't get a feel for where the former police chief stood on the issues.

Jordan focused on his plans to stabilize the San Francisco economy. He received loud boos from the crowd when he mentioned creating a "pro-business environment," however.

"San Francisco's clumsy, costly planning process and excessive level of business taxation is scaring away new businesses that create jobs and discouraging existing businesses from expanding their operations here," he said.

"Our image as the capital of the nation's homeless problem stunts the growth of our convention and tourist industries, while at the same time discouraging visitors and shoppers around

Continued on Page 9

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# Picking Through a Pamphlet of Prickly Propositions

By Steve Steinberg

November is upon us, and that means another election. Time to dig out the voter's guide from under that stack of magazines and study the fine print of the various propositions.

This year San Franciscans have to deal only with municipal issues. There are no state measures to decide, and the next national election is a year away.

Besides choosing a new mayor from 11 candidates, and confirming the district attorney and sheriff, both of whom are running for re-election unopposed, voters will also have to decide some 17 propositions—labeled A to Q—this year.

To help you wade through the alphabetical soup, here's a summary of some key measures.

## Deputy Mayors May Get the Boot

Proposition H, the so-called "deputy mayor ban," would prevent the mayor from hiring assistants to supervise city departments that are already under the control of the chief administrative officer or their own board or commission.

The measure also stipulates that no employee in the mayor's office can earn more than 70 percent of the mayor's salary.

Supporters of Prop. H claim that by eliminating these deputy mayor positions the city would save almost a million dollars a year in salaries. They also claim that while Mayor Art Agnos has reduced the number of deputy mayors from seven to three, with only one official now actually holding that title, the other assistants are still around in new positions and with new titles, and still earning high salaries.

Proponents of the ban, organized by State Senator Quentin Kopp, look upon the mayor's deputies as "bureaucrats overseeing other bureaucrats," and consider the practice of hiring them an "arrogant" waste of taxpayers' money.

Cheryl Arenson, a spokesperson for the measure, said the positions amounted to "political thank you's" to supporters of the mayor. And according to Arenson, the city's budget analyst has been unable to determine exactly what the "deputy mayors" do.

But opponents of Prop. H see it primarily as a personal attack on Mayor Art Agnos.

Andy Nash, president of San Francisco Tomorrow, an urban environmental group, pointed out that all four of Agnos' major competitors in the mayor's race have come out in favor of the ban.

Calling the issue of deputy mayors a "management question," Nash said the mayor of San Francisco needs a "certain amount of freedom" to run the office as he or she sees fit. He noted that the Board of Supervisors already had the power to quash the mayor's budget if the supervisors did not approve of the mayor's allocation of funds for staff personnel.

As far as the actual funding for deputy mayors, Nash asserted that most of their salaries had come from grants and not the general fund. Opponents of the measure also point out that according to the city controller's statement in the voter's pamphlet, only \$28,000—not the \$1 million claimed by Prop. H supporters—will be saved if the measure passes.

## Domestic Partners Threatened

Another measure this year that is creating controversy is Proposition K, which would repeal the domestic partners statute passed just last year. The domestic partners law allows two unmarried adults living together to formally register their relationship at City Hall. The process is similar to taking out a marriage license, with couples paying a \$35 fee to formalize their partnership. That fee, say supporters, pays for the program.

Those advocating repeal say they want to toss out the domestic partners law be-

cause in the year since passage, domestic partners who live with city workers have gained access to the city's health plan.

Karl Randolph, a spokesperson for San Franciscans for Responsible Government, which is supporting Prop. K, says that after the passage of domestic partners last November, the Board of Supervisors amended the statute to allow domestic partners entry into the city's medical benefits system.

Randolph says that the health plan proviso is costing the city far too much money and is not permitted by the city charter. He also thinks it sets a bad precedent for private businesses who may have domestic partners on their payroll.

Opponents of Prop. K charge that backers of the measure belong to a "Chinese fundamentalist church," which opposes "any political statement that acknowledges the existence of gays and lesbians."

Melinda Paras, campaign manager for No on K, says that the current repeal attempt has nothing to do with money, and that domestic partners has not cost the city additional expense. "Domestic partners is a matter of registration," Paras says.

Randolph denies that members of his Yes on K group have any particular church affiliation. He also says that his organization is not anti-gay. "None of the people I know are homophobic."

Asked whether San Franciscans for Responsible Government would still try to revoke the law if the health insurance question were not a factor, Randolph said "most likely not."

## Vacancy Control Needs Voters' Stamp

Two housing issues are on the ballot this year. One, Prop. M, is basically a referendum on a vacancy control measure that was passed by the Board of Supervisors several months ago. The legislation amends the city's rent control law to limit the amount of rent a landlord

can charge a new tenant when an apartment falls vacant. The allowable increase ranges from 10 to 14 percent, depending on how long the previous tenant has lived in the apartment.

Supporters of Prop. M and vacancy control state that the measure is necessary to "stop the most outrageous and unjustified rent hikes that do occur." The law would also reduce a landlord's "incentive to evict" existing tenants in order to gain unlimited rent increases.

Mitchell Omerherg, of the San Francisco Housing Alliance, a prime backer of vacancy control, says that as it stands now, even with rent control, 70 percent of renters could not afford to live in the city if they had to give up their present apartments and find a vacant unit.

Opponents of the measure say the law is unnecessary because "renters are already protected by the existing [rent control] ordinance." Barbara Kolesar, director of the Coalition for Better Housing, a landlord group, says that rents have stabilized in the city during the last three or four years and that rents on vacant units have not risen dramatically.

Kolesar sees the attempt to implement vacancy control as a "symbolic gesture" on the part of tenant groups, who feel that with a sympathetic mayor and Board of Supervisors, now is the time to cap their rent control agenda with a rent limit on vacant units.

Kolesar argues that tenants may actually pay more in rents if vacancy control stays on the books, since landlords will act more aggressively to pass on repair and maintenance costs to their tenants.

Opponents of Prop. M also maintain that building upkeep and property values will decline if vacancy control wins voter approval.

The other housing measure on the ballot this year is Proposition N, which

*Continued on Page 9*

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# Candidates Make Whistle Stop

Continued from Page 7

the Bay Area from doing business here," he added.

The audience hissed again when Jordan said that as mayor he would veto all sanctuary movement resolutions "until we start solving the problems of education and housing in this city." He referred to such resolutions as "just pieces of paper in a file cabinet that do nothing to solve San Francisco's problems."

## But Is She Mayoral Quality?

As Jordan exited, Angela Alioto made her entrance 45 minutes into the "debate."

Before she responded to her first question, Alioto took a moment to remind the audience that this was her fourth engagement of the evening, and then noted, "I'm so very impressed with the number of people here."

Again, before responding to the question, she managed to spout a partial list of her endorsers, including "the Police Department, the gay community, the Latino community. . . . I am also the endorsed candidate of the Sierra Club, of which I am extremely proud."

Several audience members said they were put off by Alioto's seeming lack of decorum.

"I'm leaning toward Alioto," said Don Kern, "but I was annoyed that she showed up late." Said another resident, "Alioto is not a woman of the people."

Other neighbors complained about her primping during the debate.

"Alioto fixing her hair and jewelry during the debate was really inappropriate," said Jessica Drate. "I was also really turned off by her demeanor during the televised debate [a few weeks earlier]. She could have made up for it tonight if she had been impressive, but she wasn't."

Nevertheless, some residents gave Alioto credit for her pugnacious attitude. "She's a spitfire," said Douglas Martin. "I know she's a go-getter."

## Agnos Joins the Fray . . . Finally

When Mayor Art Agnos showed up an hour into the debate, he apologized for his tardiness, citing the second anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake, plus a visit from the new president of Ireland, as excuses. "I take your time and issues very seriously," he told the audience.

Once Agnos sat down and loosened his tie, he and Alioto commenced mudslinging.

Claiming that "the doors of Room 200 of City Hall . . . have literally been closed to the people of San Francisco for three years," Alioto launched a sharp attack on Agnos' administration of city affairs.

"The streets have never been so dirty," she said. "What are all the people who work for DPW doing?"

"I want a health commissioner who knows something about health . . . and a Housing Authority commissioner who is a tenant on Valencia, who sees the cockroaches."

Agnos countered that Alioto didn't have her facts straight. "I have a housing commissioner who lives in Valencia Gardens," he retorted.

"I've had a chance at 3½ years now. I know I can do better. I know things need to be changed, but they can't be changed Chicago-style, thank heavens," Agnos said, taking a jab at Angela's father, Joe Alioto, who served as San Francisco mayor from 1967 to 1975.

Then he charged, "At least I can trust

the people who are now behind my back." (Angela Alioto had supported Agnos in the 1988 mayor's race, and backed his bid for a second term until just before she threw her hat in the ring this summer.)

The Alioto-Agnos row appeared to leave neighbors both amused and confused, and most wished the candidates would knock off the sleaze and stick to their platforms.

"Both Alioto and Agnos started sniping at each other as soon as they showed up," said Jessica Drate. "It was entertaining, but it didn't help me decide who to vote for."

Lisa Mammel noted that "Agnos and Alioto enjoyed putting a pin in each other's side, but in many cases that meant forsaking substance."

Said another resident, "I couldn't tell who was right and who was wrong."

## Try Riding the Bus, Residents Say

The two hours allotted for the debate expired with less than 10 audience members getting a chance to ask questions of the candidates. Another 15 to 20 questions from residents went unanswered.

But the subject of poor Muni service made it to the floor. One resident asked the candidates if they'd be willing to "for-sake their limos" and use Muni exclusively for six months to a year. With this firsthand experience, the questioner reasoned, the candidates could more effectively solve the city's public transportation woes.

Hongisto immediately whipped out a Fast Pass. "I don't have a limo. I don't care to have one. A Plymouth would be fine," he said to thundering applause.

La Riva, who works as a printer at the *San Francisco Chronicle*, said she rode Muni daily. "Riding Muni is the only way you can be really involved and know how to improve it," she maintained.

Although Alioto didn't let the audience in on her own plans, she said her father had taken public transportation for one six-month period as mayor.

Jacobs and Jordan had already left the debate, so they missed their chance to get on (or off) the bus, but Agnos said, "It isn't feasible for the mayor to ride Muni. What would have happened two years ago tonight if I had taken Muni to Candlestick? How would I have dealt with the crisis of the earthquake?"

One audience member had a comeback, however: "The fact that Agnos said he couldn't take Muni to get from place to place shows that it is not a very efficient means of transportation."

## Spaghetti Was Big Winner

As things turned out, the high point of the evening may have been the spaghetti dinner fundraiser for James Lick Middle School held just prior to the debate. The event, coordinated by 15 volunteers from Superior Coffee, netted \$1,500 for student recognition awards and activities, said Mary Lou Mendoza Mason, principal of the school.

All in all, the seven community organizations that had sponsored the forum were delighted with the turnout among residents. "We had no idea whether 30 or 500 people were going to attend," said Rick Hauptman.

The candidate turnout, however, was another matter. "We were disappointed," Hauptman said. "The next time we hold a forum like this, the candidates are going to have to agree to show up on time in order to participate." □

# Propositions You Can and Can't Refuse In November

Continued from Page 8

would pave the way toward more condominium conversions in the city. (See story, page 6.)

## A Proposition for Children

Another measure on this year's ballot is Proposition J, the "Children's Fund." Prop. J would set aside a specific portion of the city's property tax revenue for child-related services.

The money would be earmarked for such things as childcare, youth job training, pre-natal care, education, recreation, library services, and delinquency prevention.

While acknowledging that the funds for these services will have to come from other city programs and services, Prop. J backers say children are "a special case" and deserve extra support. Children are the "most vulnerable group politically," says Margaret Brodtkin, director of Coleman Advocates for Children, because they cannot speak for themselves regarding their needs. "Other constituencies have access to the political process," she adds.

Brodtkin notes that the measure has the support of various special interest groups—AIDS activists and homeless advocates, for example—who might normally be expected to guard against any transfer of revenues. "It's a good sound fiscal policy to invest in our children," Brodtkin says.

According to the city controller, \$5.7 million dollars of city property tax revenue would be allocated to children's services in 1992 if measure J passes. That figure would increase to \$14 million by 1995.

Very little opposition has formed against Prop. J, but State Senator Quentin Kopp maintains that it is unfair to "divert property tax collections for one group at the expense of others."

By extension, Kopp sees other special interest groups forming lines to ask for "the same diversion of property tax collections."

He also fears that by reserving "min-



## Testament to a Tragedy

One year after the deadly and destructive runaway car accident that claimed the lives of five people, a memorial stands at the corner of Jersey and Noe streets.

PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD

imum guarantees" for children, no other funds will be available for kids, and the minimum will become the maximum. Kopp says he does not want "the floor to become the ceiling" for children's services.

## The Rest of the Alphabet

In addition to deciding on Propositions H, J, K, M, and N, voters will also be asked to consider several measures related to city employees—Propositions A through G.

And this year's ballot also has three policy questions. Proposition O affirms the city's "unqualified support" for freedom of expression and opposes all government attempts to restrict the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Proposition P would make it city policy to recommend to the state of California that hemp (marijuana) preparations be added to the list of available medicines.

Finally, measure Q declares that it is city policy to call on the federal government to reduce military spending by 10 percent each year for the next five years. The savings would be used for housing, education, health care, research, and job training.

Well, that's about all, folks. The decisions are up to you. So don't forget to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 5. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. For your polling place or other voter information, call the registrar at 554-4375. □

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# The Days and Nights of Two 911 Dispatchers

By Michele Lynn

911—it's the emergency number we hope we'll never have to use. But if the day comes when we do have to dial it, there's a good chance a neighbor will answer the phone. Noe Valley residents Angela Negro and Mary Decker are two of the people waiting to offer assistance at the other end of the line.

## Angela Negro Keeps Her Wit and Wits About Her

Angela Negro, 37, lives on Clipper Street, in the home where she grew up and that she now shares with her husband and five children.

A 911 dispatcher for the San Francisco Police Department since October of 1988, she notes that one of the questions she was asked when applying for the job was, "Can you handle 80 things at once?" Her reply was, "Of course—I'm a mom!"

Like all dispatchers, Negro passed a Civil Service exam that tested not only her typing, but also her ability to handle a simulated 911 phone call. Then she passed an oral exam that required her to assess three different emergency situations. In one situation, she recalls, "A woman calls who thinks someone is in the house. She has a gun, and wants to know if she should shoot the intruder. My response was, 'No, don't shoot. I am sending officers there immediately. Stay on the phone and tell me what you hear.'"

There is no book to study when preparing for a 911 exam. Instead, notes Negro, "You need common sense."

Once hired, she and the other new dispatchers attended the Police Academy in Diamond Heights, where trainees practice handling hypothetical calls, and



Caring for newborn twins Joanna and Andrew Beem is a relatively peaceful break for Clipper Street resident Angela Negro. She's used to high stress as a 911 dispatcher for the San Francisco Police Department. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

learn about police codes, radio operations, the basics of the law, and local geography, including police districts.

As a Noe Valley native, Negro has found her knowledge of the city to be helpful. "The corner of Castro and Market is a dividing line between the Mission and Park police stations," she explains. "If someone calls and says, 'I'm at Castro and Market, and I've been mugged,' I can ask them if they're in front of the Chevron station or the Arco, and know which officers to send."

After her academy training, Negro

headed off to the Hall of Justice for a taste of the real thing. "I was plugged into the same telephone console as the trainer," she says. "At first, she answered all the calls, and I listened. As I became more comfortable, I answered while she listened in. It's nerve-wracking. You sit there and think, oh God, I hope it's nothing serious."

After training on the phone for three months and on the dispatch radio for five, Negro was on her own.

The computer screen she works on is divided into four quadrants. Into one area

she types the basic information for the call she is handling. Into the quadrant above, she records the more involved details of the call. A third area of the screen alerts her to incoming calls, and the fourth area shows what different police units in the field are doing, and which ones are available. The information she types into the computer also appears on the computer of a dispatcher who is working the radio.

"When I answer a 911 line, the address

Continued on Page 11

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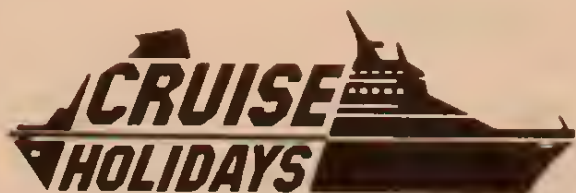
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# On Call for 911

Continued from Page 10

and phone number of the caller pop up on my screen," Negro explains. "I want to confirm the phone number and address of the caller and quickly assess the problem. If someone calls and doesn't speak, but I hear scuffling or screams in the background, I assign it an 'A' priority, and immediately dispatch an officer to the address." ("A" priority means that a human life is at stake, or a crime is in progress.)

"If someone calls without speaking, hangs up, and there's no noise in the background, I still take it seriously and dispatch an officer, but as a lower priority," she adds.

"We take the job very seriously because we can't afford not to," she continues. "We listen hard because we have to make decisions and judgments over the phone. And we always give people the benefit of the doubt."

Negro is currently on maternity leave, but she typically works an eight-hour "midnight" shift (from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.), during which she alternates between two-hour stints on the phone and on the radio. As a radio dispatcher, she assigns police officers to handle each case, and apprises them of all information relating to it. When working the radio, a dispatcher may have to call other agencies. If a chase originates on Army Street, for example, and then continues onto Highway 280 and into Pacifica, the dispatcher will have to coordinate the activities of the San Francisco Police, the Highway Patrol, the Daly City Police, and the Pacifica Police.

"This is a very stressful job," says Negro, "but it's an important one. I enjoy it because I enjoy assisting people."

Asked about the most unusual call she's received, Negro recalls the call when "I got a call from a survey taker in Great Falls, Montana. She told me that



Mary Decker of Duncan Street not only routes 911 calls to police officers, but tries to increase the public's understanding of how the system functions. PHOTO BY LORENE WARWICK

someone in San Francisco was committing suicide. She had called him and he said, 'Don't bother me, I'm going to kill myself.' So she called the local operator in Great Falls, who put her through to me.

"The survey taker gave me the man's telephone number. I couldn't reach him, so I sent a unit there. When the officers arrived, they discovered that he had ingested a combination of Drano and vodka. Fortunately, they got there in time and saved his life. When I got home that night, I called the woman in Montana and told her that she had saved someone's life that day. It just shows that you can't ever discount anybody."

Before becoming a dispatcher, Negro worked as a fine arts coordinator at Alvarado Elementary School. Her teaching experience, she notes, has helped immeasurably in the 911 job.

"I've had people call me, and I can tell they are being beaten while we're talking. Sometimes I'll tell them to put the heater on the phone. I put on my teacher voice and tell the person to stop. Remarkably, they have!"

## Mary Decker Puts Her Compassion on the Line

You may have seen Duncan Street resident Mary Decker, 54, walking briskly through Noe Valley. As a member of the Bay Bandits, a local walking club, this grandmother of four unwinds from her job as a 911 operator by walking three or four miles a day. We talked on a sunny afternoon at a sidewalk table at What's

for Dessert, one of her favorite Church Street haunts.

After 15 years as a meter maid, Decker decided to become a 911 operator in 1989, ostensibly in order to develop her dispatching skills for the Department of Parking and Traffic. But she soon decided that she wanted to stay with the Police Department.

"It sounds so hokey," she says, "but San Francisco is my home. The people I talk to are my friends and neighbors. I feel I can do a community service through my work."

Although she doesn't feel she has the personality to be an effective police officer ("I would take the children home with me and give money to the drunks!"), being a dispatcher, she says, "is the closest I can come to the kind of public service provided by officers."

When 911 was created, says Decker, "The concept of the system was to have a central telephone number that people could call when they have a life-threatening emergency. They could be patched into whatever service was needed—police, fire, or EMS [emergency medical service]. But now we have a statewide problem of the 911 system being overburdened, because there is a lack of public education about the correct use of the system."

Decker feels so strongly about the need for community outreach that she is among a group of dispatchers who volunteer their time to speak to neighborhood groups on the ins and outs of the police communications system. "I have an aw-

ful lot of people who call to say, 'This isn't an emergency, but I don't know who to call. Can you give me the correct number?' I want to help people out, but it takes time away from the emergency calls."

She adds that, "We get a lot of calls from people who wake up in the morning to discover their car has been broken into. I understand what a terrible feeling of personal invasion that is, but that's the kind of call that people should report on the non-emergency number, 553-0123."

Both Negro and Decker point out that their working conditions—in fourth-floor offices at the Hall of Justice on Bryant Street—are far from ideal. Dispatchers sit about three feet apart in a dilapidated room with poor ventilation. There have been several occasions when toilets overflowed in the jail on the floors above, causing raw sewage to run down the walls.

In addition, dispatchers are in short supply. There are 90 911 operators employed by the city of San Francisco, with 15 to 25 working on any given shift.

When responding to between 30 and 50 calls an hour, Decker says, "There are times when you just answer one stressful call after another. You can't unplug your headset. You can't even catch your breath."

Despite her frustration, Decker says she doesn't "blame the Police Department for our problems, as much as the city that puts its priorities and money in other places. This system is dealing with the well-being of the entire city. It is so important."

Like Negro, Decker works an eight-hour day, but her shift is from 3 to 11 p.m. Because the job is so emotionally draining, she and her co-workers try to pat one another on the back at every opportunity.

"Since we have to work on holidays, we create our holidays together...and make everyone feel a part of our family and what we're doing," she says. Decker and her fellow dispatchers are currently talking about "adopting" a needy family for Christmas. "We see so much had out there that we want to help."

In the meantime, Decker encourages people to come and see her office in action. "Even for police officers on the street," she says, "it's difficult to understand what our jobs are like unless they sit there with us. I would love for people, especially kids, to visit our office so they can understand how the system works."

To arrange for a tour, or to have a speaker address a group, call Lieutenant Judy Pursell, at 553-1303. □

## How to Use 911

Noe Valley residents Angela Negro and Mary Decker, who both work as dispatchers for the city's 911 emergency phone system, offer these tips on the proper use of 911.

☞ *Use 911 only for life-threatening emergencies or when a crime has just occurred.*

When you make a 911 call, your phone number and address automatically appear on the dispatcher's computer. Confirm your address with the dispatcher.

After you report the emergency, stay on the line and provide the dispatcher with the information she or he requests. This information will assist the police officers when they arrive on the scene. The dispatcher sends the first available officer to respond to emergencies as soon as the call is received. Providing additional information does not delay the arrival of assistance; it makes the time it takes for an officer to get there useful.

If you call 911 with a medical or fire emergency, you will be immediately patched through to the Fire Department or paramedic dispatcher. You will hear a dial tone during this process. Do not be alarmed; you have not been disconnected.

☞ *For non-life-threatening incidents, call the Police Department's non-emergency phone number, 553-0123.*

Be patient if your non-emergency call is placed on hold. Your call is answered by the same dispatchers who respond to the emergency 911 number, which is their first priority. An automatic system routes the 911 calls to the dispatcher first.

☞ *Above all, try to stay calm. Help is on the way.* □



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# Photographer Tim Baskerville Does His Best Work in the Dark

By Laura McKinstry

Outside of Gallery Sanchez, located in the Noe Valley Ministry at 1021 Sanchez St., the shrill drilling of construction crews disrupts what could be a quiet, sunny day. But inside, as Noe Valley resident Tim Baskerville speaks softly about the peacefulness of night photography, the noisy sounds of daytime fade into the background.

Baskerville is curator for "The Nocturnes," a night photography exhibit at the gallery through Nov. 22. The show features Baskerville's work, as well as that of nine other photographers, Doug Burgess, John Chan, Steve Harper, Lance Keimig, Nathan LaBudde, Wende Lee, Tom Paiva, Mari Stefanetti, and Chris Sullivan.

A night photographer for the past 10 years, Baskerville produces photos that are distinctly different from those taken when the sun is out.

"With straight photography, a lot of things tend to be things you find [in] the moment, the snapshot effect," he notes. "With night photography, there is more mystery, more of an artistic approach."

Baskerville's prints are the result of a careful and involved process, one that is affected by many variables. Since he is dealing with darkness, exposure times for one shot can range from a few seconds up to eight hours.

"In the city, you can keep your exposure times shorter," he explains. But "with landscapes, such as the beach or Marin Headlands, the process is even more involved."

If Baskerville's work looks somewhat unrealistic and strange, there are a number of good reasons for it. "With

long exposures, the duration of time changes what you see," and often common sights "are totally altered by night," he says.

Possibly the most notable effect of long exposure time is the appearance of "star trails." Photographed stars don't appear as pinpoints, but rather as bright lines of varying length, streaked across the sky—an effect caused by the earth's rotation during exposure. "You can see the passage of time and space—that line conveys that," Baskerville says with a certain audible pride.

An important consideration for night photographers in the Bay Area is fog. But this unpredictable, uncontrollable force of nature poses no great problem for Baskerville. "I use the fog," he says. "The fog is a great blender of light. It takes a variety of aberrant light sources and blends them together, so they mix and are more natural."

Although Baskerville describes his craft as "pseudo-scientific," he still finds room for excitement over the possibilities for artistic expression. "Surrealism, the mystery of place, solitude, and a heightened sense of the nature of things—night photography seems a worthy vehicle, a ritual to express these themes," he says.

When he first took up photography 15 years ago, Baskerville attended classes and workshops at the Academy of Art College, the Headlands Center for the Arts, and U.C. Berkeley Extension. At the time, however, he was working two jobs and driving a cab part-time, which left little space to squeeze in any photography, save between jobs and late at night.

But "the night shift," with its "dark, cold, strange hours," held an appeal for



"Soft Kill" is the title of photographer Tim Baskerville's nocturnal portrait of a Coast Guard tower in the Marin Headlands.

Baskerville. He began to focus more and more on night photography, until his work, he recalls, took a noticeable turn after the October 1989 earthquake.

"After the earthquake, the freeways and the industrial areas that were hit provided a lot of motivation to convey not so much the devastation, but the change, the vulnerability of these areas."

His work matured at this point, he believes, and led to a one-year scholarship from the Academy of Art College, beginning in February.

Even after 10 years of midnight madness, Baskerville remains intrigued with his art. Most recently, he has been working on a new technique of superimposing a negative image onto a positive one. "I take two images at night and combine them," he explains. "It's more manipulated, but is still true to the overall feel of the night—the mystery of it."

With "The Nocturnes" exhibit, Baskerville says he wants to display the diversity and range of night photography, which, he adds, "doesn't have to be this realistic landscape look. I was looking for more of a variety... a nice blend of different people's visions."

Fall, notes Baskerville, is prime time for Bay Area night photographers to do their work. "With warm weather, it's comfortable to be out," he says. "A lot of night photography is done in the Bay Area because it's a good overall climate for being outdoors... with natural areas close by."

"As we go into winter, the nights are longer, and the sun sets sooner. It's a nice time for this show."

Gallery Sanchez is open Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Nov. 3, a reception for the artists in "The Nocturnes" will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. □



Seated in front of a projected image of one of his luminous "night photographs," Tim Baskerville contemplates some of the work on display at Gallery Sanchez through Nov. 22.

PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

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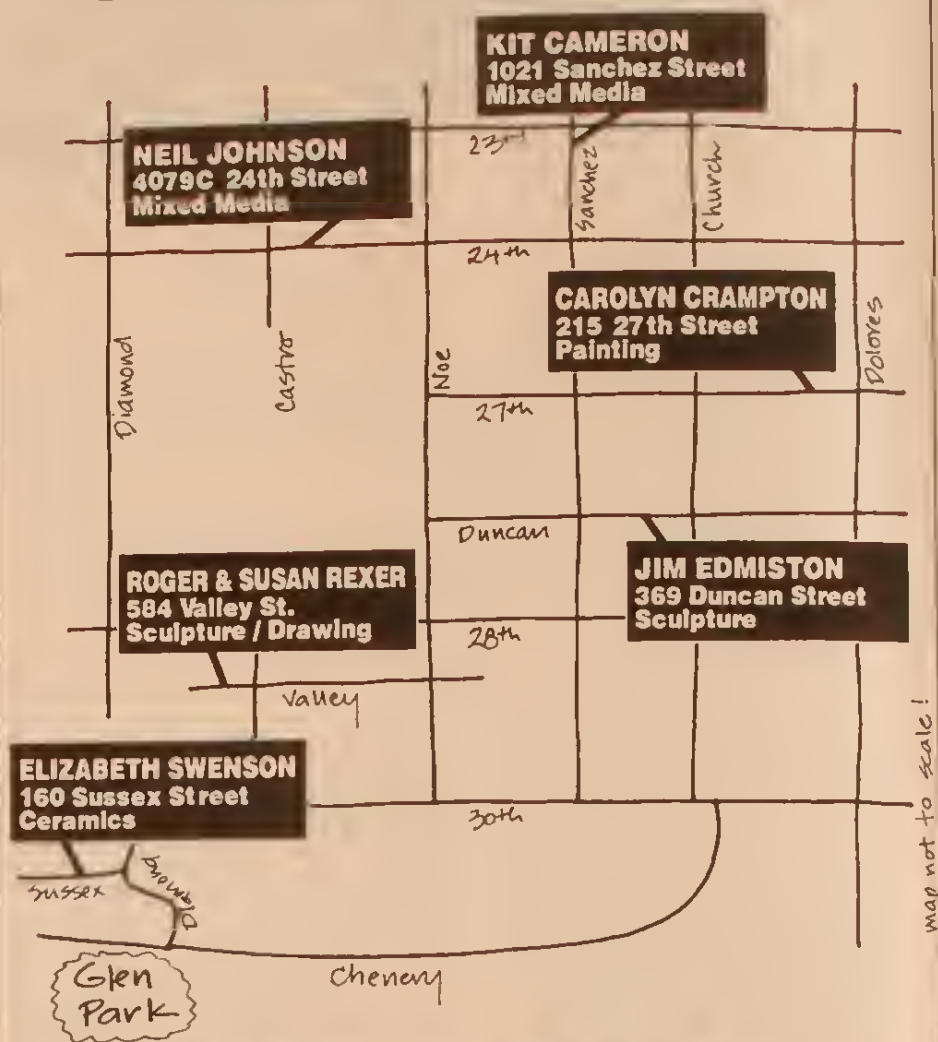


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# Chef Natalie: Have Recipe, Will Travel

By Jeanne Alexander

For people who like to eat in, but don't relish take-out, Chef Natalie has the answer. In fact, she *is* the answer.

Grand View resident Natalie Thomas runs a one-woman business preparing meals in people's homes, for special occasions or on a regular basis. She plans the menu, shops, and cooks, and leaves the dinner ready for heating up when they get home. Two of her clients are Noe Valley working couples with children, whom she has fed two days a week for several years.

"They're absolutely wonderful," she says of her families, one of whom she has been cooking for since she launched her enterprise in 1985.

"They're very supportive. They call me up and tell me if they like something, and also if they don't. Last week one left me a note that said, 'Natalie, the food was scrumptious. Yum yum!'" The note-prompter was a meal that featured Chef Natalie's artichoke pea soup and a baked vegetable dish of zucchini, onions, peppers, and garlic, topped with broiled tofu.

Generally, menu-planning for the "regulars" is left up to Thomas, who uses fish, poultry, vegetables, and pastas as her mainstays. Most of her clients shy away from red meat, except as one of several ingredients in a dish. For one favorite recipe, she sautés a cut-up chicken with onions, garlic, and spices (cumin, allspice, thyme, and coriander), then adds fresh tomatoes and broccoli flowerets, fresh chicken stock, and white wine. The final result is served with rice.

For her popular salmon balls, she mixes the fish with onions, garlic, mayonnaise, and bread crumbs, seasons it with coriander and Tabasco, and pops the tasty globes into the oven. Pasta with olive oil, sweet basil, and parmesan, plus a green vegetable, complete the meal.

Sitting in the airy living room of her house on Grand View, Thomas described a pasta salad that she does for people who ask for "something a little different." Starting with fusilli (a corkscrew-shaped pasta), she adds raisins soaked in marsala "to plump them up," toasted cashews, red and yellow peppers, green onions,



Natalie Thomas takes the cake—and all other parts of the meal—into the homes of people who don't have time to cook for themselves. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

fresh ginger, garlic, and sweet basil. Coriander and curry go into the seasoning. For the vinaigrette dressing she likes to use balsamic vinegar and two oils—olive (Spanish or Greek) and canola.

Her repertoire of repasts isn't confined

to dinner. She also does breakfasts, lunches, brunches, and teas. You name it, she can prepare it, she says.

When clients call, Chef Natalie goes to the house to meet them, survey the kitchen, and consult on the menu. For a

special dinner, preferences for the main course will vary, but "everybody wants hors d'oeuvres, and everybody wants dessert," she says.

A prized hors d'oeuvre is porcini tortini—toasted baguette rounds covered with a mix of sautéed shallots, garlic, and porcini mushrooms that have been soaked in brandy. They're topped with parmesan, popped under the broiler to brown, and served with "a great wine." (Wine selection is also a part of Thomas' service.)

Her most popular desserts by far, notes Thomas, are French chocolate torte and cardamon cake, which is a yellow layered affair, with raspberry jam between layers and a chocolate glaze over all. An interviewer could die just visualizing it.

Although she began cooking professionally only six years ago, "food was always very important in my family," she notes. One of nine children, Thomas was born and brought up in Cleveland. There were lots of aunts and uncles and cousins around as she was growing up, and in the family's kosher kitchen "somebody in the household was always cooking something or eating something."

During the 16 years of her marriage, most of which was spent in San Francisco; she cooked for her husband and daughter. But it was while she was living in Tucson, Ariz., in the early '80s, that she gained her professional training. She worked as an assistant to two expert restaurant chefs, who taught her the tricks of the trade. ("They said that preparing your ingredients in advance is the most important thing, and I found out they were right.")

After returning to the Bay Area in 1985, Thomas moved her cooking skills to the front burner.

This proved to be a good move, when Michael Bauer, *San Francisco Chronicle* food editor, hired her to do a four-course dinner party—without mentioning his newspaper connection. Calling her "a chef who's at home on your range," he wrote that "the food she prepared was so good and the price so low, I felt a twinge of guilt when paying the bill."

Thomas charges \$20 an hour, with a three-hour minimum. She is paid for her time in the kitchen, plus for the time she spends at the market (usually about an hour).

Concluding that "staying in for a home-cooked meal has never been easier," Bauer also dubbed her "the bargain luxury of the century." It's a title she hopes to keep for nine more years, at least.

Chef Natalie's number is 282-5372. □

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In a city with more restaurants per capita than any other city in the U.S., culinary arts flourish here among a discriminating audience accustomed to quality and willing to wait for it. In fact, patrons of Bud's "mother" store in the Noe Valley of San Francisco were known to stand in line for as long as a half hour for what numerous food critics praised as "simply the richest and best tasting ice cream in the city."

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# SHORT TAKES

## In Homage to Fred

The Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association is sponsoring a special clean-up week as a memorial to Fred Methner, the well-known neighborhood activist who died in September at the age of 84.

Says Harry Aleo, president of the Merchants Association, the clean-up campaign will be a nice way "to remember, honor, and carry on the efforts of this special person."

"Fred Methner Week," to take place the first week in December, will feature a marathon of steam-cleaning on 24th Street. Merchants will steam-clean their sidewalks from Diamond to Church Street, on a block-by-block basis.

Store owners will also spiff up their businesses by pulling weeds, painting over graffiti, pulling posters from poles, and planting flowers and shrubs.

In addition, notes Aleo, the association is preparing to establish a monthly "Fred Methner Award" (the nature of which has yet to be decided), to go to the merchant who makes the greatest effort to clean or beautify his or her storefront, sidewalk, or surrounding area. Winners will also be publicized in that month's edition of the *Noe Valley Voice*.

For the scoop on the December clean-up, call Aleo at 824-0872.

The merchants' clean-up efforts, by the way, are in part modeled after the "Litter Block Captain" program founded by the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, and endorsed by other neighborhood groups.

This program, formerly headed by Fred Methner and now directed by East & West member Dave Simon, currently has over a dozen participants, who—armed with bags and vests provided by the club and the city—are picking up litter on their own blocks at least twice a week.

To encourage the crew, the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, together with an anonymous local merchant, have set up a monthly lottery offering a \$45 gift certificate to winning block captains.

To sign on as a block captain, give Simon a call at 821-2468.

## Bands in the Bars

The sixth annual Noe Valley Music



**Stone Soul School:** The youthful sparkle of students from St. Paul's High School on 29th Street contrasts with the venerable Gothic architecture of St. Paul's Church. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

Festival, sponsored by the Endangered Species Alliance, will fill four Noe Valley bars with music on Saturday, Nov. 9, from 2 to 8 p.m. Twelve bands, offering everything from rock 'n' roll to world beat, will provide the entertainment.

Roy Derrick, festival coordinator, says the Endangered Species Alliance is comprised of "an informal group of neighborhood people" who want to make a contribution to "whatever cause we're for that's endangered."

The proceeds from this year's festival, he notes, will be donated to the Noe Valley Senior Center, which operates out of the Noe Valley Ministry, and the Centro Latino Senior Center, located at 15th and Mission streets.

"The main concern is the old folks," says Derrick. "Take a look around at the society we have today. There's nobody helping anybody. But we've been doing this [fundraising for needy groups] for 17 years, since the Golden Gate Park Days—under one name or another—and it's working."

This year's participating bars will be: Noe's Bar and Grill, 24th and Church; Jack's Taps, 25th and Church; the Cork 'n' Bottle, 4037 24th St., and the 1st Inning Lounge, 4026 24th St. The bands scheduled to perform include Bandito, the Black Hole Gang, Lucy Nuff, Palm Garden, Street Pigeon, Jimmy and the Weasels, Pope and Friends, and the Movers.

## Green Party Voter Drive

After six years of grassroots development throughout the state, the "Green" movement—a group of activists espousing a shift in national policies toward ecological wisdom, pro-choice feminism, decentralization, and disarmament—is now seeking official ballot status as the Green Party of California.

To win a place on the 1992 election ballot, the new political party has launched a voter registration drive aimed at getting a minimum of 80,000 voters on its rolls by the end of 1991. As of August, over 32,000 Californians were registered "Green."

Voters may affiliate with the party on their voter registration cards by checking "other" in the Political Party box, and writing in "Green." (Registration cards are available at post offices and libraries, or may be obtained by calling 1-800-345-VOTE.)

On Nov. 13, Mark Haven and Ginger Falvani, of the local chapter of the Green Party, will host a community organizing and orientation meeting for Noe Valley, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., at 7:30 p.m.

For information, call 255-2940, or drop by the headquarters of the San Francisco Green Party at 2940 16th St., Suite 200-8.

## Exhibit Benefits AIDS

Nancy McNally describes herself as "an old guard Noe Valley lady, exiled in Bernal Heights," who would still be living in the neighborhood if she had not been evicted from her home last year.

An artist who does watercolors and mixed media, McNally used her eviction as a muse and is now exhibiting a group of paintings at Rami's Caffe, at 1361 Church St. She calls the work "visions of imaginary Victorians, and my response to being forced out of my home of many years."

McNally has had two other shows at Rami's in recent years, and has always donated a portion of her sales to AIDS organizations. This year, 50 percent of the purchase price (tax deductible) of her paintings will go to either the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park, or to Hospice by the Bay.

McNally herself is the one who initiated the AIDS Memorial Grove three years ago, and she saw her vision turn to reality when the first trees were planted on Sept. 21 of this year.

The Rami's art show ("all framed at Merline's on Church Street") will run Nov. 1 through Jan. 1.

*Continued on Page 27*



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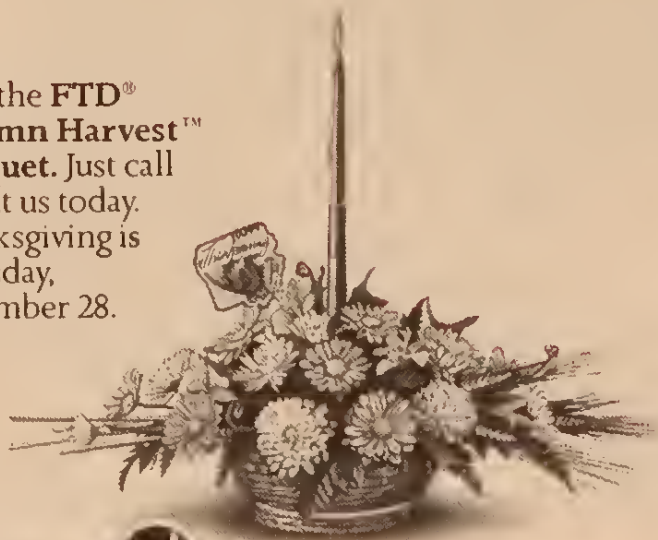
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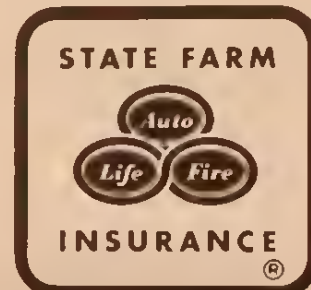
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# Lewis and Lee, A Precocious Baby Clothes Business

By Crystal Land

Three years ago, Noe Valley resident Jane Lewis was disappointed when she went shopping for clothing for her newborn son. Almost all the infant wear was pastel blue, pink, or white—little was available in bright primary colors or non-traditional prints.

Lewis, 40, and her colleague, Connie Ulasewicz-Lee, 35, both on maternity leave from their jobs at the Esprit clothing company, felt it was time to change the face of baby wear. The pair decided to strike out on their own, and less than a year later, they founded Lewis and Lee children's apparel. They hoped this small business would allow them not only to create their own vision of infant clothing, but also to spend more time at home with their children.

"It has been a dream of mine to do something in children's wear for years, and I've always wanted to run my own business," said Lewis. And, noted Lee, "I've always felt I've had great ideas, and I wanted to see if I could do it myself—the ultimate challenge." The two women have proved to be an excellent complement to one another—with Lewis' background in textile design and Lee's experience in production and sales (both at Esprit), they make a strong team.

Their line focuses mainly on baby accessories. "We had a tough time finding hats we liked, so we decided to create a complete stroller look," says Lewis, "with hats, booties, and bibs, all matching."

They started by collecting hat designs, finding colorful fabrics, constructing samples, and testing out their fashions on their own children. Before they knew it, both were working full-time again—plus some. In the fall of 1989, they introduced their first line, and except for the sewing (done at a San Francisco factory), handled every detail of the business themselves—from sales and delivery, to tag design and press releases.

The duo personally carried their newly created product from store to store, trying to garner interest. "We got good reactions and orders," recalls Lewis, "and from there things started to mushroom."

Although many of their fabrics are bright solids, polka dots, and plaids, Lewis and Lee specialize in the whimsical prints designed by Lewis. "It's really the prints and colors," she says, "that sell the goods."



Jane Lewis, in her home design studio with son Elan, enjoys the expanding success of the children's wear operation she established in 1988 with partner Connie Ulasewicz-Lee. PHOTO BY LORENE WARWICK

Lewis takes some traditional baby motifs such as rocking horses, then adds her own unique touches. One print features red, yellow, and blue rocking horses surrounded by moons and stars. Another portrays the smiling faces of cats, rabbits, and pigs on a background of paw prints.

In the past two years, the business has grown by leaps and bounds. Now, in addition to hats, bibs, and booties in sizes up to 4T, Lewis and Lee offer a newborn layette set, consisting of a receiving blanket, cap, and booties. And although the heart of the company lies in primary colors, the line has broadened to include a few traditional pastels.

The future for Lewis and Lee holds an expansion toward more 100 percent cotton clothes, and the addition of "onesies" (one-piece tee-shirt outfits with snap crotches) and tee shirts that boast the Lewis and Lee rabbit logo. "People keep asking for more," notes Lewis. "They see a bib and hat, and ask, 'Where's the shirt?'"

But hats are still the mainstay of the business. "We wanted a hat with good sun protection and a fun design," Lewis says, "so we went with our feeling as mothers, and it seems to have worked." The hats come in several different styles, from a soft floppy sun hat to baseball- and hunting-style caps. All the hats,

which sell for around \$16, are reversible, with coordinating prints, ear flaps, and wide brims.

One look at Lewis' office in her 29th Street home reveals how she has combined business with motherhood. A drafting table covered with tubes of paints and scraps of paper inhabits one side of the room, and her son Elan's crib, changing table, and toys fill up the other.

On the drafting table is a design that has a Native American look—geckos on bright red, blue, and yellow squares. Another is based on a floral print in dusty rose and blues and greens, and a third sports a watering can flowing with red and black polka dots.

In the center of the room are several large framed photographs featuring Lewis' son Elan, decked out in a hat and bib designed by Mom. Although Elan goes to daycare three days a week, Lewis spends the other two days with him. "Sometimes we do errands for the business, but I always try to plan in activities that Elan likes. Yesterday we spent the afternoon feeding the ducks. But he also enjoys going to the printers."

Lewis, a Noe Valley resident for 11 years, points out that the community has been an inspiration in many ways. "First of all, it's strollerville here. There are lots of babies, and I can really get a feel for what babies are wearing and what

moms like. The local children's stores like Small Frys and Peek-A-Bootique have also been great. I chat with the owners and customers and get feedback on our designs. I also do a lot of talking in playgrounds—parents are always giving me opinions, which really helps."

This personal approach can be felt throughout the smallest details of their business. The packaging for many Lewis and Lee products includes quaint handwritten notes, such as "Please re-use this bag for toys, books, diapers, bottles, spare outfits, etc.," and "...with love from Lewis and Lee," as well as a gift card with their rabbit logo.

Although Lewis' partner Lee is a former Noe Valley resident, she now lives in Foster City, where much of the business is conducted. She notes that they are now in over 400 children's specialty stores, as well as large department stores such as Macy's and Saks.

"We've just gotten into the new Biobottoms catalog," Lee says. "With the skills we have together, anything is possible."

Both women occasionally wish for a return to the traditional 9 to 5 jobs they left behind. "There's really an irony involved," Lewis says. "We started this to have more time with our children, yet we really work just as much or more than before. But I love the flexibility, and the chance to follow my heart." □



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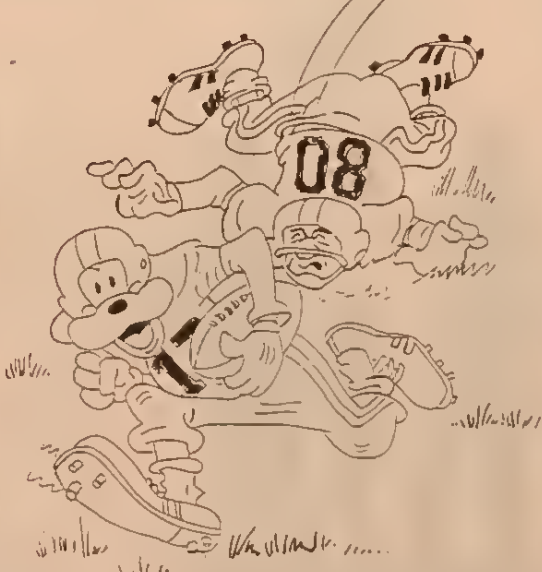
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# Sister Whoopi Wins 'Most Congenial' In Movie Cast

Continued from Page 1

my God! When did the dirty bookstore move in?"

*Sister Act* tells the story of a Reno lounge singer (Goldberg), whom police sequester in St. Katherine's Convent (St. Paul's Church) after she witnesses a mob slaying. During her stay, nun Whoopi befriends the convent sisters and works with them to revive their struggling neighborhood. The film's director is Emile Ardolino, whose credits include *Dirty Dancing* and *Three Men and a Little Lady*.

During the first two weeks of October, trash cans filled to the brim with garbage lined Church Street. Storefronts were graffitied to the max. The hoarded-up residence at 1663 Church St. looked like a three-alarm fire waiting to happen, and across the street the front stoop of St. Paul's Church was cluttered with decaying shrubbery and piles of rubbish.

At one point, a group of well-meaning environmentalists trekked down Church Street, picking up the Coke and Dr. Pepper soda cans that littered the sidewalk. They halted their recycling mission only after the Disney crew told them the cans were intended as film props.

"Two people even tried to use the fake graffitied phone booth that we set up for the film," laughed Kesi Tiapula, a *Sister Act* security guard.

On weekends, hundreds of San Franciscans, armed with cameras, film, and flashes, flocked to Noe Valley to catch a firsthand glimpse of the movie-making.

"I can't believe the change in the neighborhood," said Marie Doherty, who

snapped photos as she walked her pet collie. "I'm taking before and after pictures to send to my relatives."

After filming the ghetto shots, in mid-October Disney began shooting scenes that showed the neighborhood on the upswing. The adult bookstore was transformed into a first-rate book shop (good-bye Long Dong Silver, hello Sinclair Lewis). The "Bayside Pawn Shop" became a charitable thrift store, and the "Pizza Royale" restaurant shed its image as a prime spot for ptomaine poisoning.

When filming concluded on Oct. 23, the crew spent a week tearing down sets, repainting buildings, and replacing carpeting, pews, and chandeliers in St. Paul's Church.

Although star sightings were slim for

After taking a break from the filming of *Sister Act*, a partially costumed "nun" dashed back into St. Paul's Church, where most of the indoor scenes were shot. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

Voice staffers, a number of residents and merchants reportedly spotted Whoopi Goldberg on and off the set. *Sister Act* insiders said Goldberg won the "star congeniality" award hands down. (Co-star Maggie Smith kept a much lower profile, and Harvey Keitel was a no-show, because his part was confined to Reno.)

"Whoopi is just a lovely person," said Sister Aimee O'Neill, 74, a retired St. Paul's Elementary instructor who got her 15 minutes of fame portraying a bag lady in *Sister Act*.

"It was great to meet Whoopi," said San Franciscan Matt Thiessen, 14, who won a role as an altar boy in the film.

"She shook hands with me, and her hands are really soft. She was also funny and energetic and always had a joke to tell."

"Whoopi was wonderful," agreed Kathy Duane, a sixth-grade teacher at St. Paul's. "My daughter shook hands with her. She was very gracious and even asked my daughter's name."

Goldberg also made time to speak to St. Paul's Elementary students at a special assembly. And according to Sister Maureen O'Brien, principal of St. Paul's High School, the school's English classes were allowed to observe filming as a "Fri-

Continued on Page 23

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# Disney Movie Brings a Little Mayhem and a Lot of Magic

Continued from Page 22

day treat."

"This was a marvelous opportunity for the children," O'Brien added.

Although the movie provided an emotional lift as well as a financial boost for local shops and restaurants, the month of shooting left many neighborhood residents and merchants a lot less starry-eyed about the filmmaking process.

"It was exciting when they were building the sets, but then it got to the reality of filming," said Bonnie Berucki of Sanchez Street. "It's usually calm in the neighborhood during the day, but the last month it was very hectic."

Finding parking along Day and Valley streets was close to impossible as dressing room trailers and porta-potties lined large portions of the two streets. Some neighbors received early wake-up calls courtesy of the noisy film equipment.

Students at St. Paul's Elementary lost their schoolyard to *Sister Act* sets and had to take recess and lunch breaks on 29th Street or at nearby Day Street Park. Most of St. Paul's teachers had to park their cars at least three or four blocks away from the school, and a few residents complained of dizziness and nausea from the paint that crew members had sprayed on their buildings. Some neighbors also feared that vandals would take a cue from Disney and spray graffiti on the buildings once the structures were restored.

"There is no getting around the impact that this length of filming has on a neighborhood," admits Robin Eickman, director of the San Francisco Film and Video Arts Commission.

However, Eickman pointed out, the movie poured about \$1.3 million into the city's economy, and Disney made an effort to be as accommodating to residents as possible.

The studio was able to get parking restrictions lifted for neighbors on some Noe Valley streets. Others received permission to park in areas that are normally off limits. So that crew members and extras wouldn't bring their cars into the



During the first two weeks of October, Tinseltown transformed the block of Church Street between Valley and 29th into a shant. But by the end of the month, the junked cars had been towed, and storefronts had been returned to their former "gloey." PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

neighborhood, Disney arranged for them to park at a lot at 10th and Harrison, and then be shuttled to the Noe Valley site.

Nonetheless, a group of 12 Valley Street residents were prompted to write a letter to Mayor Art Agnos and the Board of Supervisors, complaining that Disney had failed to inform them that work crews would be placing metal bars on their apartment windows and spraying their buildings with graffiti. Eickman and Debra Girard, assistant location manager for *Sister Act*, quickly responded to the

residents' complaints.

"Things improved for us quite a bit once we sent the letter," said Valley Street resident Joe Hakim. "We're still concerned, however, about how the city issues filming permits for major motion pictures. We think that some sort of consensus should be reached among neighbors before a filming permit is issued for a project the size of *Sister Act*."

Local merchants' reaction to the filming was mixed, but mostly positive. "It's

been a lot of fun," said Marlene Sherman, a waitress at Church Street's Hungry Joe's. "The crew has come in a lot, and business has been up on weekends because of all the people coming into the neighborhood to see Church Street."

Sherman also noted that Whoopi Goldberg often asked her driver to make a pit stop at the restaurant to fetch her breakfast, which usually included hash browns, a hageel, and bacon.

Sally Steinborn, co-owner of the Sidetrack Cafe across the street, reported that "business was up 20 percent during set construction. When filming started, business got back to normal because there was catering on the set."

Steinborn added that Goldberg stopped in once, and that crew members made frequent espresso-runs to the cafe.

"They're from L.A., so they wanted these double mocha decafs with a twist, heavy on the cinnamon, light on the milk," she said. (Has she seen *L.A. Story* or what?)

Three weeks into the filming, merchants Clara Ortega and Joshua Chu appeared ready to step out of the limelight.

Lack of walk-in customers at Ortega's beauty salon, The Hair Place, caused a 50 percent drop in business during October. Ortega said potential clients were confused because the salon was disguised as a game arcade for the film.

Chu, who owns the China Pepper Restaurant (which kept its name but had its windows coated with slime for the film), said his dinner business was off by a third. "I think people were scared to come to the area because of all the commotion," he commented.

Both Ortega and Chu said, however, that the financial compensation they received from Disney for allowing the studio to use their storefronts would cover the loss of income they suffered last month.

Meanwhile, Disney staffer Debra Girard, who spent two months in the neighborhood, praised Noe Valley residents for their patience during the movie-making.

"The neighbors and merchants were very understanding," she said. "After I was around for a while, people would see me on the street and invite me to come in for a soda. I feel like I've met a lot of new friends here."

Approximately 30 percent of *Sister Act* was shot in Noe Valley. The crew begins filming in Los Angeles the first of November, and will then travel to Reno. Production on *Sister Act* is expected to wrap in December. The film will be released in the spring of 1992. □

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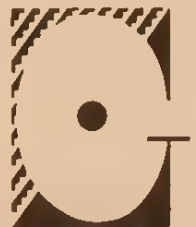
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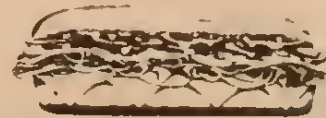
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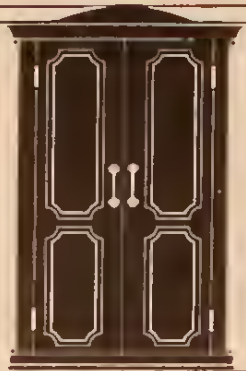
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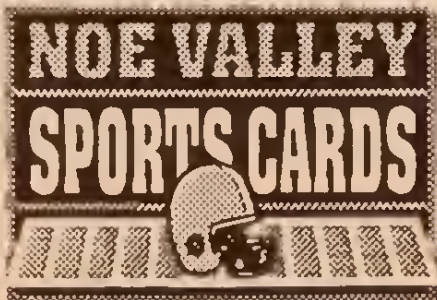
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Photo by Beverly Tharp



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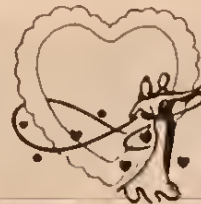
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## Artists Open Doors

During three weekends this fall, over 500 artists throughout the city will open their doors to the public, as part of the 16th annual San Francisco "Open Studios" event.

Artists in the western sector of San Francisco, including more than 30 in the Noe Valley area, will be participating on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 2 and 3.

For those who would like to take their own self-guided tours, Open Studios of San Francisco has published a fold-out map, pinpointing the studio locations of both independent artists and neighborhood arts groups participating in the event. The group also offers a directory (for \$10), which gives more detailed information, including photo documentation and information about each artist.

In Noe Valley, maps can be found at the Real Food Co. on 24th Street, and both maps and directories are available at the Mitre Box framing shop, at 4082 24th St.

An exhibition featuring sample work of the participating artists will run through Nov. 18, at the Somar Gallery, 934 Brannan St. (in the South of Market Cultural Center). The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and until 5 p.m. on Open Studio weekends.

For more information, call Open Studios at 861-9838.

## Vibrator Tales

Good Vibrations, a vibrator store and museum on Valencia Street, is now accepting submissions for a special anthology of stories called *My First Vibrator*. The book's publication will commemorate the store's 15th anniversary, in March of 1992.

"We couldn't have made it this far without our customers or our vibrators," says founder Joani Blank. "We'd like to take this opportunity to honor both."

# SHORT TAKES

Good Vibrations, which also sells erotic books and videos, is calling for manuscripts (anecdotes, journal entries, etc.) of up to 250 words, detailing either first-time or particularly noteworthy vibrator experiences.

Writers whose stories are selected will receive a Good Vibrations tee shirt, and will be honored guests at the boutique's March 26 anniversary bash.

Manuscripts should be sent, with a stamped, self-addressed envelope, to: Fifteenth Anniversary, Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia St., SF, CA 94110. The deadline is Dec. 15, 1991.

P.S. Copies of the anthology will be distributed free to all Good Vibrations customers during the month of March.

## Day of the Dead Procession

A candlelight procession of hundreds will march through the Mission District singing and dancing on the night of Nov. 2. The procession, led by Aztec drummers, dancers, and an array of whimsical

"calaveras" (skeletons), commemorates the annual celebration of Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead).

Día de los Muertos is the time when the people of Mexico and Latin America remember the dead and honor the living. According to pre-Hispanic belief, death is the release from the soul's pain in life, and thus it is an awakening, deserving of joyful celebration.

The procession begins at 7 p.m. at Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. It winds down 24th Street and ends at Galeria de la Raza, 2857 24th St. (at Bryant), where celebrants can enjoy an outdoor festival of food, art, and music.

## Best Babysitters

Natural Resources, a parenting resource center located at 4081 24th St., will be sponsoring a "Super Sitters" babysitting workshop on Sunday, Nov. 17, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The workshop, designed for young people ages 10 to 16, is based on a program developed

by Dr. Lee Salk, and is used by the Red Cross.

Participants will learn about children of different ages and how to avoid some of the pitfalls that accompany childcare. According to Natural Resources co-owner Lisa Moresco, "The physical safety and security of the child is emphasized, as well as friendship, companionship, understanding, and patience."

The workshop costs \$15 per person, plus \$5.95 and tax, for two books, *A Sitter's Resource Guide*, and the *Sitter's Emergency Care Manual*. Participants are asked to bring a pen, paper, and a bag lunch with drink.

Graduates of the course will receive a certificate of completion suitable for framing, and will be put on file at Natural Resources as a "Super Sitter."

This month's "Short Takes" were written and compiled by Jane Underwood. □

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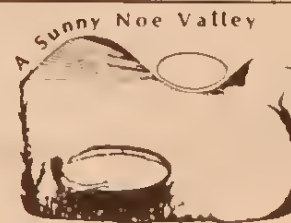
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Waiter Mark Merrigan displays a sampling of the desserts awaiting diners at a new restaurant called the 24th Street Bistro. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD.

By Karol Barske

Recession or not, a number of entrepreneurs made the plunge and launched new businesses in Noe Valley this fall.

**Action Sports Cards**  
**Noe Valley Sports Cards**  
**Alley Cat Jewels**  
**1547 Church St.**  
**285-3668**

Not one, not two, but three small businesses, catering to sports fans and collectors, squeezed into a corner storefront at Church and Duncan streets, just in time for the World Series last month.

Brenda Blankenship, owner of Action Sports Cards, and Herb Lilly, of "rival" Noe Valley Sports Cards, have set up display counters facing one another, filled with row after row of colorful football, baseball, basketball—you name it—trading cards. There are dozens of prized Joe Montanas to choose from, on cards sold individually, or 50-cent packets of randomly-selected sports heroes (sans the chewing gum, however, which the owners say leaves a sticky residue).

A third counter is the domain of Jan Helman, who, as proprietor of Alley Cat Jewels, offers an assortment of vintage jewelry, Mexican handbags, Hawaiian shirts, and other antique threads. But to ensure she won't be left out of the action, Helman also sells San Jose Sharks merchandise, ranging from insignia hats to tee shirts. "Just call me the Shark Lady," she says.

According to Helman, the three shop-

## STORETREK

keepers—all friends and residents of Noe Valley and environs—have been attempting to stick to a schedule of noon to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

But in late October, the neighborhood kids were converging in such numbers after school, the trio went into overtime and extended the shop's hours to 6 p.m.

**24th Street Bistro**  
**4138 24th St.**  
**282-4437**

"Downtown quality at neighborhood prices" is the motto of 24th Street Bistro, a new restaurant serving French-American cuisine in the charming Victorian formerly occupied by Little Italy Too on 24th near Castro.

And the restaurant staff definitely wants to put the emphasis on the neighborhood. Says sous-chef Todd Fischer, "We'd be shocked if we ever saw a tourist—and upset!"

Since opening the doors Oct. 1, owner Mohammed Ilham Arif has entrusted the creation of his restaurant to general manager and chef Joel Theriault. Theriault says Noe Valley patrons can savor their dinners and "hold hands" in a romantic indoor setting, or at umbrella-covered tables on the leafy patio out front, which

is strung with glittering lights.

The Bistro's selection of entrées, ranging in price from \$6 to \$18.50, includes sautéed prawns, broiled lamb chops, pear chicken, filet mignon *aux poivres verts* (with green peppers), *le saumon en croute* (salmon-filled puff pastry), plus an assortment of seafood, vegetable, and fruit salads. A weekend brunch features



Herb Lilly, Brenda Blankenship, and Jan Helman are three friends who have gathered under one roof to offer a panoply of trading cards, jewelry, and other chatchkes. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP.

eggs benedict, petite filet mignon, and another house specialty, shrimp and crab *en croute*.



The store name of Big Discount Cleaners speaks for itself, but owner Daniel Wong also pledges quality and friendly service at his Noe Valley Mall location. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD.

Chef Theriault makes all the pasta served, and adds he is especially proud of his tempting dessert tray.

The restaurant is open daily for lunch, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and for coffee and pastry from 2:30 to 5:30. Dinner is served from 5:30 to 10 p.m. The Saturday and Sunday brunch starts at 10:30 a.m., and is served until 3 p.m.

**Big Discount Cleaners**  
**3915B 24th St.**  
**282-3150**

So you found it, the garment of your dreams—gorgeous color, perfect fit, a bargain price—then you see that mean little tag: "Dry Clean Only."

Before you start adding up zeroes and decide to forget the whole thing, check out the prices at Big Discount Cleaners, a new dry cleaning service that opened Sept. 9 in the Noe Valley Mall, on 24th Street near Sanchez.

Owner Daniel Wong says his dry-cleaning prices can't be beat, and that residents who bring in their silks and linens between 7:30 and 9 a.m. will benefit from a 10 percent early bird special.

With years of fabric care experience under his belt (he previously owned a dry cleaners in North Beach), Wong says he plans "to keep low prices, and do good work for the neighborhood." He assures his customers that most clothing dropped off by 10 a.m. will be back in their hands the following day.

Big Discount Cleaners is open Monday through Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and on Sundays, noon to 5 p.m.

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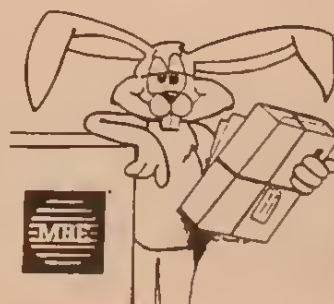
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# Let BYLINES be BYLINES

## Grand View Project Flies in Face of Of Proposition M

By John Stalp  
Planning Committee Chair  
Friends of Noe Valley

How many times do the citizens of San Francisco have to restate their intention to maintain the integrity of their neighborhoods? Four years after the people passed Proposition M, which set forth guidelines on housing and neighborhood development, we once again find ourselves fighting with an insensitive developer in Noe Valley.

At issue this time is an apartment complex that developer Leonard Nordeman proposes to build at 150-160 Grand View Ave., above the west end of 21st Street. [The Voice published a story on the proposed development in the February 1991 issue.]

The project would incorporate five units into a building 6½ stories high. It

would block adjacent buildings, completely envelop an older home in the middle of the site, and totally destroy the architectural integrity of the street.

The structure clearly violates the intent of Proposition M, which states that "existing housing and neighborhood character be conserved and protected in order to preserve the cultural and economic diversity of our neighborhoods."

It also goes contrary to the intent of the interim building controls developed by the San Francisco Planning Department this past year—all of which makes us wonder, why does the Planning Department support this construction?

In a public hearing before the Planning Commission Sept. 26, department officials recommended approval in the face of widespread opposition from neighbors and neighborhood groups. The Planning Department presented no drawings or plans to the Commission. They just said, "Give your okay to this plan; the department will take care of any small details."

Property owners on either side of the development opposed it. We, the Friends of Noe Valley, opposed it. The East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club opposed it.

More importantly, and perhaps for the first time in history, the San Francisco Residential Builders Association opposed it. At that same September meeting, association president Joe O'Donoghue called the project a "blockbuster building" that was going to

create problems for all builders in San Francisco. O'Donoghue knows from experience that approval of such blockbusters creates a backlash against all residential builders. If one guy does something stupid, they all feel the heat.

Friends of Noe Valley has several concerns with the proposed building. Number one, the structure would be 62 feet high (as measured above the level of the garage floor). No other building in our neighborhood even approaches that height.

Number two, the structure is not set deep enough into the hillside. It would require side walls more than 25 feet tall that would "wall in" the buildings on either side of it. This clearly violates the spirit of city planning guidelines for residential buildings.

Number three, the project is a massive structure that would be built in an area zoned RH-2, which allows for a maximum of two dwellings per lot. As planned, the development vastly exceeds the average building size on Grand View.

At the Oct. 10 Planning Commission meeting, the Friends of Noe Valley and other opponents convinced the commission to take a discretionary review of the project, even though the Planning Department initially asked the commission not to review the project. The commission asked the developer to construct a model so that the true impact of the project could be analyzed. The issue has now been continued to the Nov. 14 commission meeting.

But the Friends of Noe Valley is still

wondering why the Planning Department would attempt to force this building on the neighborhood. Why would Planning advance a project that so obviously dwarfs the largest buildings in the neighborhood? Is the Planning Department that out of touch with the neighborhoods, or is the staff just plain incompetent?

To register your concerns on this project, residents should call Zoning Administrator Robert Passmore at 558-6377, or write the San Francisco Planning Department at 450 McAllister St., San Francisco, CA 94102.

Residents who'd like further information are also welcome to call me at 824-7234. □

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Let *Bylines Be Bylines* be your column. Send us your stories, statements, testimonials, and editorials, and we'll consider printing them. Your submission must be typed, double-spaced, fewer than 1,000 words, and preferably pertinent to Noe Valley. We may edit for style, clarity, brevity, or legality. Include your name, address, and phone. Send it to: *The Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.



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**Friends of Noe Valley**  
Contact: Bill Kuhns  
Answering machine number: 285-3532  
Mailing Address: 1178 Dolores St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Noe  
Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

**East & West of Castro Street  
Improvement Club**  
Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753  
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Room  
108, James Lick School, 1220 Noe St., 8 p.m.

**The Noe Valley Merchants and  
Professionals Association**  
Contact: Harry Aleo, 824-0872  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 146003,  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank  
of America, 24th and Castro, 9 a.m.

## • MORE GROUPS to Join •

**Upper Noe Neighbors**  
Contact: Janice Gendreau, 641-5989  
Mailing Address: 403 28th St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Every other month, Upper Noe  
Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez streets,  
7:30 p.m. Call for specifics.

**Duncan-Newburg Association**  
Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734,  
Janet Kennedy, 647-1844, or  
Deanna Mooney, 821-4045  
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Irregular

**Fair Oaks Neighbors**  
Contact: Kevin Brickley, 285-4938  
Mailing Address: 165 Fair Oaks St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Twice a year at ICA Auditorium,  
24th and Guerrero streets

**Dolores Heights Improvement Club**  
Contact: Bruce Muncil, 864-7847  
Mailing Address: 336 Cumberland St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Irregular

**Liberty-Hill Neighborhood  
Association**  
Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990, or  
Hilda Bernstein, 282-8232  
Mailing Address: 3333 21st St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Quarterly  
Call for time and location

**Fairmount Neighborhood Association**  
Contact: Al Ujeic, 648-3545, or  
Susan Nutter, 285-8484  
Mailing Address: 78 Harper St.,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe  
Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez, 7 p.m.

**Diamond Heights Community  
Association**  
Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: First Thursday of the month,  
7:30 p.m. Call for location.

**Glen Park Association**  
Mailing Address: Glen Park Association,  
P.O. Box 31292, San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Second Tuesday of month, Glen  
Park Recreation Center, Elk and Chenery,  
7:30 p.m.

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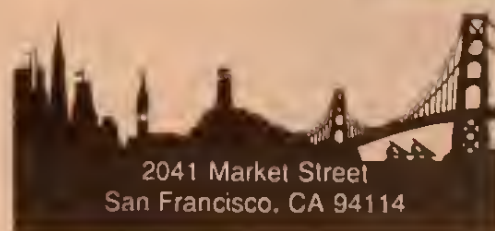
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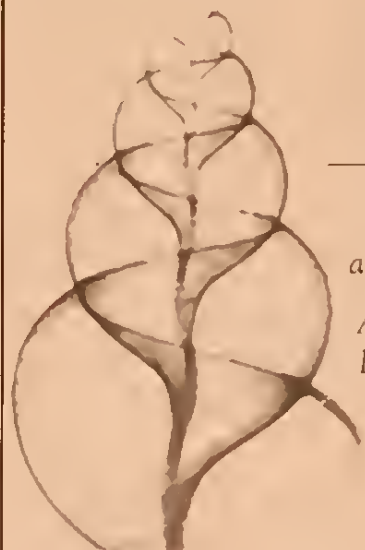
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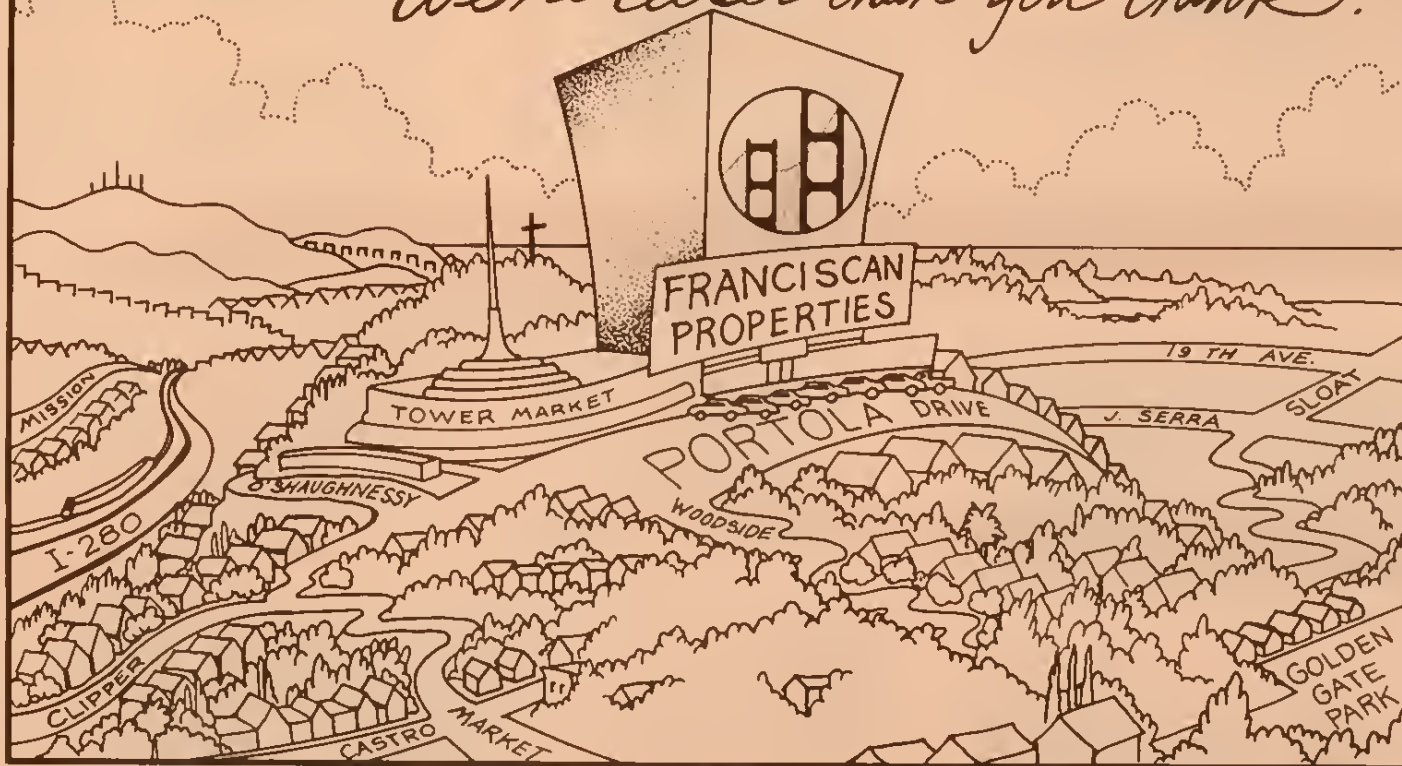
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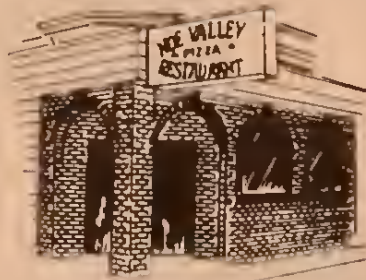
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One day a few years ago, Leo and I heard the thump of something hitting our picture window. We investigated and discovered that a little song sparrow, upon seeing the reflection of the sky on the glass, had zoomed into the window and knocked himself silly. We also noticed that danger was lurking nearby. A neighbor's cat, with swishing tail and drooling mouth, was sneaking up on the poor befuddled bird.

Fortunately, Leo sprung to the rescue by quickly enclosing the little fellow under a protective crate, to keep the cat away until the sparrow was recovered enough to leave by a small exit and fly away. Meanwhile, I was able to sketch him.

This is only one of our many bird tales. Ever since we moved into our 21st Street hilltop home 35 years ago, we have been astonished by the abundance of bird life in the middle of the big city.

Noe Valley has a year-round residential bird population that includes hummingbirds, juncos, sparrows, mockingbirds, mourning doves, scrub jays, and even the solitary shrike—a small bird of prey called the "butcher bird" because he hunts insects, other small birds, and mice, and then impales them on a thorn until he's ready for dinner. At times we have also sighted crows, blackbirds, and nuthatches. And, of course, there are the ever-present pigeons.



In the spring when the fruit trees are blooming, we are regularly visited by small seed birds which eat the insects that are busy pollinating the blossoms. During the summer, we see a constant stream of fruit eaters—flickers, robins, and yellow-sided parakeets. We have spotted large flocks of house finches, with brilliantly colored red heads and breasts, as well as goldfinches, and pairs of yellow- and black-hooded orioles.

When the berries of our Hawthorne tree ripen in the fall, we get visitations of birds from faraway places. Every year, for example, our yard is host to flocks of sleek cedar waxwings who arrive suddenly, feed, and then just as suddenly leave.

## Psychic Horizons

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Illustrated Reminiscences by Florence Holub

### Birding from a Noe Valley Deck

One year, however, one of them didn't leave. Instead he dropped to our deck, panting helplessly. I rushed out to sketch him, and noticed that a large piece of skin and feathers was missing. A hawk, no doubt, had wounded him mortally. We buried him in the back yard.

Speaking of hawks, a few weeks ago while relaxing on our deck, Leo and I noticed a strange pattern of shadows racing by our feet. Looking up, we were amazed to see six to eight enormous hawks soaring in circles above our heads. The lowest one was only 50 feet above us, so we could see the dark breast band, the lighter underparts, and the majestic four-foot wingspread. The hawks spiraled slowly upward until they were carried over the hink of our Dolores Heights hill.

Although we had sighted a couple of redwing hawks before, these birds were the highest we had ever witnessed flying over Noe Valley skies. After a few hours of perusing our bird books, we decided to consult the experts stationed at Hawk Hill in the Marin Headlands—only a 10-mile drive from Noe Valley across the Golden Gate Bridge. So, a couple of weeks later, we did just that.

Upon leaving the freeway at the other side of the bridge, we encountered a two-lane zigzagging road that seemed like a journey back in time. Then, as we neared the base of Hawk Hill, remnants of military fortifications prompted anxious memories of the World War II years. But after parking the car, we took an uphill path through chaparral brush and pine trees, and were brought back to the here and now by an escort of fluttering Monarch butterflies. The lovely creatures stayed with us until we reached the summit, where a crowd had gathered to hear an introductory "hawk talk."

We were told that this hawk observation point was discovered in 1972 by ornithologist Lawrence Binfold, after he noticed an inordinate number of hawks passing by his window at the Golden Gate Science Academy, and

suspected there might be a migration site nearby. The area was at one time a military reservation, but when the military moved out, the Golden Gate Recreational Area was created, and the Golden Gate Raptor organization now holds down the fort. This hawk migration site is the only one of prominence in the far West, with a total of 16,000 hawks passing through each year.



Hawks fly down the Pacific Flyway, which narrows to a funnel shape over the Marin Headlands, creating a concentration of birds. Seeing the wide stretch of water before them, they circle on updrafts in order to gain enough altitude to glide across the Golden Gateway.

Hawks don't like to fly over water—where there is no food, no place to rest, and no updrafts—because they can't swim. If they tire, they will drown. The day must be clear, so that they can see the lay of the land, and there must be a good wind blowing, to send them soaring across the gap. If it is a foggy and still day, they just hang out for a few days, laying low and hunting until conditions improve.

The peak of fall migration happens from September through November, and the best time to see hawks is mid-day, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. During these hours, the hill is well staffed with trained volunteers, armed with powerful binoculars. The bird watchers work in teams, calling out each sighting in oral shorthand: "Two Sharpies!" (sharp-shinned hawks), "One Coop!" (Cooper's Hawk), and so on, with additional sightings such as "Red-tailed!" "Rough-legged!" and "Red-shouldered!" (all different hawks), and even the rare "Red-tailed Albino!"

When we mentioned our unusual Noe Valley hawk sighting to the affable, knowledgeable speaker, Carver Faust,



he ventured that they might have been Broad-wing Hawks. The Broad-wings, which travel in flocks, had recently passed through the area, he said. Then Carver was interrupted by the call "TV.!" and he explained, "That would be a turkey vulture looking for his TV dinner."

The volunteers count all of the other birds passing through, too, and the information is passed on to other interested organizations, such as environmental groups, for it is now acknowledged that whatever affects birds (pesticides, for instance) eventually travels along the food chain to affect us humans, too.

We checked our bird hooks again when we got home, and to our delight uncovered not only the Broad-wing, but another hawk that looks exactly like the birds that soared over our deck. It is the huge Swainson's Hawk, a bird that migrates in flocks, and which spends the summer storing up fat in the Alaskan tundra. In the fall, it journeys south to winter in the Argentine pampas. These hawks fly a distance of 5,000 miles every year!



On that day at Hawk Hill we also spoke with Fox Channel 2 reporter Gary Kauf, who was covering the hawk migration story for his station. We learned that he has lived in Noe Valley for seven years, and reads the *Voice* religiously. Small world, isn't it? Especially if you are a Swainson's Hawk! □

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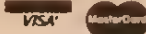
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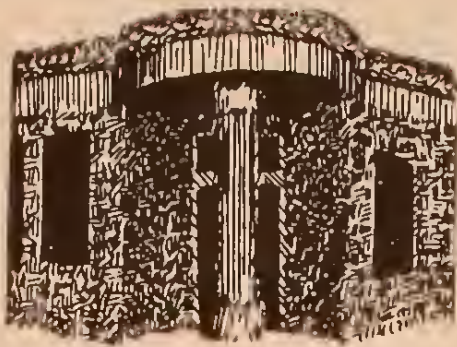


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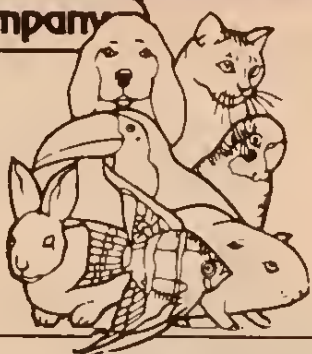


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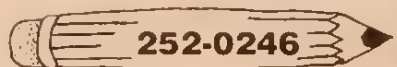
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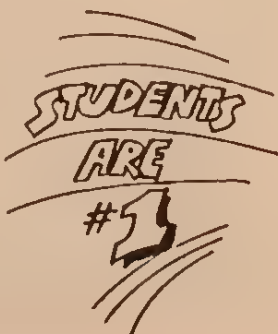


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# MORE MOUTHS • to feed •

By Jane Underwood

## Katie Anne Clyatt

Tom and Sheila Clyatt's birth announcement makes a great lead-in paragraph to this column.

It reads: "True to her heritage, our little Katie Anne has acquired two very dominant Clyatt-O'Connor traits. One is the 'Clyatt Time' method of interpreting a schedule, and the other is the O'Connors' strong Irish stubborn streak. She has defied technology, old wives' tales, her mother's wishes, and her father's helpful suggestions to be born an April baby, opting instead for the month of May."

Katie Anne Clyatt arrived better-late-than-never on May 8, 1991, at 5:21 p.m. And her parents welcomed all 9 pounds, 11 ounces, even though, as Sheila points out, "we wanted her to be born on my mother's birthday, April 29," or on any one of several other relatives' April birth dates.

The Clyatts' daughter is a "Wednesday's child," but, adds Sheila, "she definitely isn't full of woe!" Instead, says Mom, she fits her name to a tee. "Kate is a very strong name—independent and loyal and stubborn. She's a very self-contented type of individual."

Although Katie Anne was up at night "every two hours for the first couple of months," Sheila's happy to report that now "she goes down at seven and sleeps until six. She's such a great baby."

Tom wholeheartedly concurs. "Katie Anne has a mellow personality," he says. "She's very calm, unless we've dragged



Baby Katie Anne poses with parents Tom and Sheila Clyatt and the family dog, Coco, on the back deck of their 20th Street home. PHOTO BY LORENE WARWICK

her around to a zillion places and not let her have a nap."

And at the ripe old age of 5 months, Katie Anne has been to just about that many places. "We do everything together," says Sheila, a former real estate appraiser now opting for full-time momhood. "We go out early in the morning and traipse around Noe Valley, or take Coco [the family dog] to Golden Gate

Park. All my friends complain that I'm home less now than when I was working."

One favorite Golden Gate Park excursion is to the top of Strawberry Hill. "We hike up there and look at the city views. People are amazed, and ask, 'How did you get this stroller up here?'"

When Tom gets home from his full-time job as service manager for a temperature control company, he switches over

to his Daddy role, the best part of which, he says, is holding his blue-eyed gal (when she isn't scooting herself backwards around the house) "and watching her smile, watching her curiosity—like right now, she's grabbing the phone and feeling it."

On weekends the whole family frequently takes off. Katie Anne has already attended a five-hour movie marathon, and been to Marine World, where she was, notes Tom, "a bit amused by the killer whales." The Clyatts also like to travel, and their daughter is no stranger to mountain cabins.

Travel, in fact, and enjoying the outdoors, were two of the common interests that drew Tom, 31, and Sheila, 32, together seven years ago. "Our first date was on bicycles," says Sheila.

The couple, who got married and moved to 20th Street five years ago, first met at a costume party with a Club Med theme, given by one of Tom's friends "in a bachelor pad decorated with four couches pulled in off the street." Sheila was wearing a 1910 bathing suit, and she recalls that "Tom liked my legs, and I liked his truck."

Neither Mom nor Dad does much partying anymore, but they don't seem to mind. "We've been at home working on the house for the last four years anyway," laughs Tom. "Katie Anne hasn't put a crimp in my lifestyle at all."

"Everything revolves around the baby," adds Sheila. "Nothing else seems as important. She's such a treasure. I keep shaking my head and thinking, this is just too good." □

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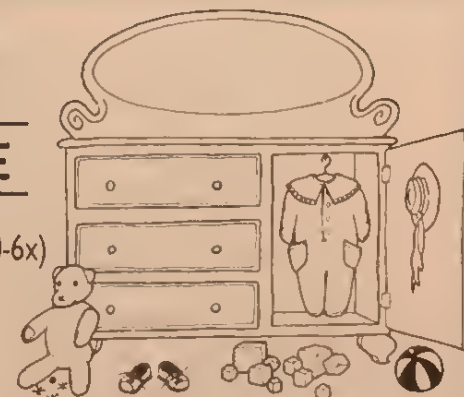


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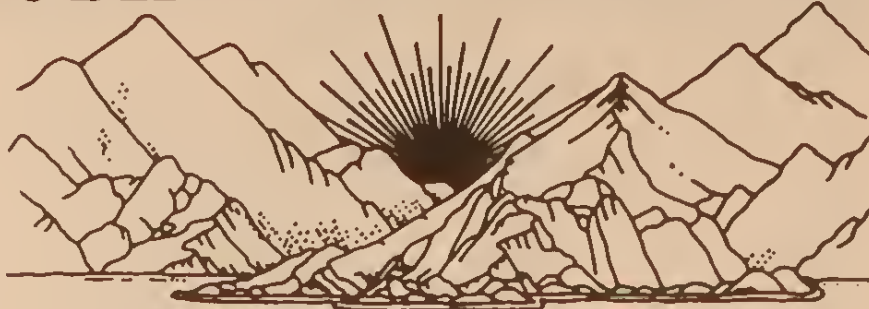
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#### Adult Fiction

*Blue River*, by Ethan Canin, the author of the popular *Emperor of the Air*, depicts the relationship between two brothers, one a successful ophthalmologist, the other a gambler and a drifter.

Set in a variety of locations, including her native South Africa, *Jump and Other Stories*, by Nobel Prize-winner Nadine Gordimer, contains 16 short stories involving racism, terrorism, and family dynamics.

Written in journal form, the highly acclaimed *To the Friend Who Did Not Save My Life*, by French writer Hervé Guibert, describes how the AIDS epidemic affects a close-knit group of artists. *Under the Fang*, edited by Robert McCammon, is a collection of vampire stories written by some of America's best horror writers.

#### Adult Non-Fiction

Eric Sigg's *California Public Gardens* covers the botany, horticulture, architecture, and history of major and minor California public gardens.



## MORE Books to Read

In his sympathetic biography, *The Death and Life of Sylvia Plath*, author Ronald Hayman reveals new details about the poet's suicide and her husband's lover. John McGowan's *Do-It-Yourself Decorating* is a guide to interior painting, tiling, shelving, and wallpapering, accompanied by helpful diagrams and photographs. A new biography of Malcolm X, *Malcolm* by Bruce Perry, is based on interviews

with over 400 of the people who knew him, including his mother. *Peace of Mind in Earthquake Country*, by engineer Peter I. Yanev, is the expanded 1991 edition of this authoritative classic on the causes, hazards, and protective steps to take in the event of an earthquake.

#### Children's Fiction

While visiting her father and stepmother, HESSIE adjusts to the arrival of their new baby in *Sam Is My Half Brother* by Lizi

Boyd. (Ages 3-6)  
Sarab and Grandpa care for the garden together—they water it, they watch it, and finally they enjoy a meal from it—in *Grandpa's Garden Lunch* by Judith Caseley. (Ages 3-6)  
A money-making scheme turns into a near-disaster for the town of Coven Tree in Bill Brittain's *Professor Popkin's Prodigious Polish*. (Ages 8-11)  
Fourteen-year-old Alice Lonner finds out what it's like to work as a model in *High Cheekbones* by Erika Tamar. (Ages 11 and up)

#### Children's Non-Fiction

Experience "seeing double" and make a box camera by using *The Science Book of Light* by Neil Ardley. (Ages 7 and up)  
If you've ever been curious about geckos, *The Gecko*, by Victoria Sherrow, will answer many of your questions. (Ages 7 and up)

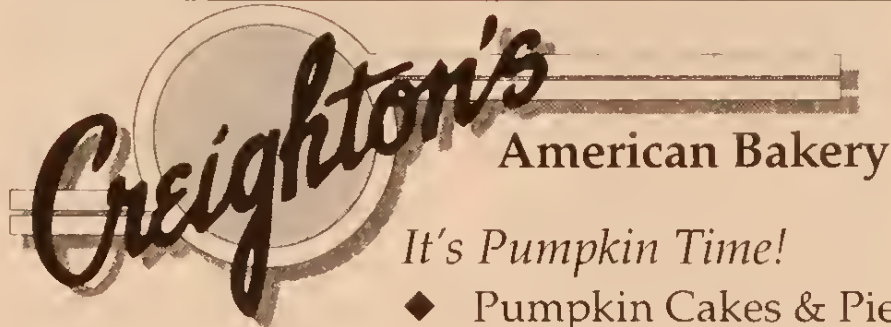
*The Great Voyager Adventure: A Guided Tour Through the Solar System*, by Alan Harris and Paul Weissman, provides a fascinating look at the behind-the-scenes work done for the Voyager missions. (Ages 9 and up)

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The rate for classified advertising in the *Noe Valley Voice* is 25¢ a word. Just type or print your copy, multiply the number of words by 25¢, enclose a check or money order for the full amount, and mail it to us by the 15th of the month preceding the month of issue.

It also would be a big help if you would indicate whether you are renewing an ad from a previous issue and, if so, include a copy of the published ad with your renewal.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be highlighted in all caps.

Our address is 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Note: The December 1991/January 1992 issue of the *Voice* will appear Tuesday, Dec. 3, 1991. Please mail your ad and check—made payable to the *Noe Valley Voice*—so that we receive it by Nov. 15. Sorry, but we are unable to take phone or drop-in orders.

Also note: We cannot accept payment for insertions in more than six issues. Receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. □

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# CALENDAR

**OCT. 30–NOV. 1:** The S F Bay Area Book Festival (Nov. 2 & 3) will be preceded by a BOOKMAKERS FORUM, offering three evenings of panel discussions, "Surviving as a Writer" (Oct. 30), "Editors for Writers" (Oct. 31), and "Behind the Scenes in a Publishing House" (Nov. 1) 7 pm S F Concourse, 638 Brannan St. 864-1248

## OCTOBER 1991

**OCT. 30–DEC. 1:** Charlie Varon performs POLITICAL COMEDY in a multi-character show called "Public Address" Thurs–Sun, 8 pm The Marsh at Cafe Beano, 878 Valencia St. 641-0235

**OCT. 31:** A "SCARE HOUSE" for kids (7 and up) highlights the Upper Noe Recreation Center's Halloween festivities 6–9 pm Day & Sanchez 695-5011

**NOV. 1 & 2:** The Noe Valley Music Series presents the band BLUE RUBIES in two nights of celebration of the Day of the Dead 8–15 pm 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272

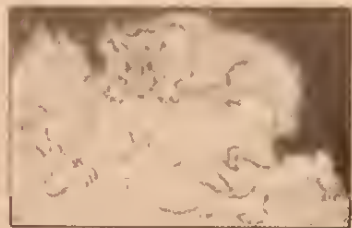
**NOV. 1–11:** Guadalajara-born GLASS SCULPTORS Jaime and Einar de la Torre exhibit their work at Back to the Picture Gallery Mon–Sat, noon–6 pm 934 Valencia St. 826-2321

**NOV. 1–30:** "San Francisco Earthquakes, 1906 and 1989," is a special exhibit of PHOTOGRAPHS and memorabilia on loan from the San Francisco History Association Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**NOV. 1–DEC. 31:** Nancy McNally exhibits her WATERCOLORS and mixed-media paintings at Rami's Caffe, 1361 Church St. 641-0678

**NOV. 2:** Noe Valley resident Judith Lynch's VIDEO, "The Electrocution of a Pickle," a ditty take-off on a high school science experiment, will be shown in the Film Arts Foundation Festival's "Late-Night Lunacy" program 11–30 pm Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St. 431-7253

**NOV. 2:** Male and female singers with a strong dance background are invited to AUDITION for Beach Blanket Babylon. Bring music in your key for both an up-tempo song and a ballad, plus dance shoes, photo, and resume Noon Club Fugazi, 678 Green St. (No phone calls, please.)



Beth Katz's "Sleeping Woman" is among the erotic paintings and etchings on display at Good Vibrations

**NOV. 2:** Drummers, dancers, and calaveras (skeletons) bearing portable altars lead a DIA DE LOS MUERTOS candlelight procession, beginning at 7 pm at Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. A children's celebration will be held concurrently at the 24th St. mini-park between Bryant and York sts. Calle Galeria de la Raza, 826-8009, for information

**NOV. 2 & 3:** Find bargains in clothing, toys, books, furniture, and housewares at Wind in the Willows Preschool's annual GARAGE SALE Sat., 10 am–4 pm, Sun., 10 am–noon Church & Army 285-5510

**NOV. 2 & 3:** Two Noe Valley artists' studios that will open their doors during the citywide OPEN STUDIOS tour are Orihime Studio, featuring hand-dyed, hand-woven garments and accessories, at 4151 24th St., and Kramer-Roy Studio, showing handmade paper cards, weavings, and jewelry at 3843 24th St. 11 am–5 pm. You can pick up a map of all the studios in the tour at Real Food Co. or the Mitre Box, both on 24th St. 861-9838

**NOV. 3:** The Miraloma Piano Trio and Karen Heather, solo pianist, perform Chopin nocturnes in conjunction with "THE NOCTURNES," a night photography exhibit featuring the work of 10 Bay Area photographers 2 pm Gallery Sanchez, 1021 Sanchez St. 563-2144

**NOV. 4:** ISADORA ALMAN will answer questions and autograph copies of her new book, *ASK ISADORA*, a compilation of her columns published in the *SAN FRANCISCO BAY GUARDIAN*, 7–9 pm Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia St. 550-7399

**NOV. 5, 12 & 26:** The Noe Valley Library offers a preschool STORY TIME for children ages 3–5 10 am 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

## NOVEMBER 1991

**NOV. 6–24:** Mixing Asian and Mexican cultures, "La China Poblana" reveals the legend of Princess Mirra (Bitterness) through STORYTELLING, music, video, and dance Thurs.–Sun. 8 pm Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia St. 626-2787

**NOV. 6–27:** Wednesday LAPSITS for babies, toddlers, and their parents continue at the Noe Valley Library 7 pm 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

**NOV. 6–DEC. 1:** Muriel Miguel, co-founder of Spiderwoman Theatre in New York, performs her ONE-WOMAN SHOW, "Hoi 'N' Soft" Wed.–Sun., Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079

**NOV. 7:** Cynthia Perlis discusses ART THERAPY for children and adults with cancer or AIDS in "Art for Recovery: Exploring the Creative Mind" 7–8:30 pm, U C S F., 533 Parnassus Ave. 476-2557

**NOV. 7–23:** Theatre Au Naturel performs a revenge COMEDY, *Black Eve* Thurs.–Sat., 8 pm Capp Street Theatre, 362 Capp St. 929-8894

**NOV. 7–DEC. 14:** Local PLAYWRIGHT Gary Aylesworth's Construction Crew Theater presents *Department of Fire*, a satiric exposé of the roots of departmental racism Thurs.–Sat., 8:30 pm New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. 641-4454 or 863-9834

**NOV. 7–JAN. 4, 1992:** Bev Katz's erotic Sumi ink PAINTINGS and etchings will be on display at Good Vibrations Reception: Nov. 7, 7–9 pm 1210 Valencia St. 550-7399



Waltraud Weber's "Columns" are on sale with other ceramic, glass, and jewelry items during the California Ceramic Artists' holiday show at the County Fair Building Nov. 23 & 24

**NOV. 8:** MARGO AOAI leads a 30-hour creativity workshop called "Applied Meditation/Intuitive Problem Solving" Call 221-1621 for information

**NOV. 8–24:** Solo PERFORMANCE artist Ruven Hannah explores a gay man's sexual journey in "Sex, Etc." Fri. & Sat., 8:30 pm, Sun., 7 pm Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079

**NOV. 9:** Gunnar "Bob" Madsen, founding member of the new wave a capella group The Bobs, gives a solo CONCERT 8–15 pm Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272

**NOV. 9:** Glenridge Cooperative Nursery School's sixth annual AUCTION and buffet will be held at Riordan High School 6–10 pm 175 Phelan Ave

**NOV. 9:** The sixth annual Noe Valley MUSIC FESTIVAL showcases 12 bands, to benefit the Noe Valley and Centro Latino senior citizen centers 2–8 pm Noe's Bar and Grill, Jack's Taps, the Cork 'n' Bottle, and First Thing Lounge

**NOV. 9 & 10:** A CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE, featuring afghans, baby wear, handmade items, baked goods, and fruitcake, will benefit the Dominican Sisters 10 am–4 pm ICA Auditorium, 24th and Guerrero

**NOV. 10:** The Noe Valley Ministry's "CANTATE Service of Chanting and Prayer" begins at 7 pm 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

**NOV. 10:** OPTIONS for Women Over Forty sponsors "Exercise Your Options," a 5K or 3.2 mile run/walk/racewalk for women and girls of all ages 7:30 am Golden Gate Park Call the race hotline, 431-6944, for information.

**NOV. 11:** November birthdays will be celebrated at the Diamond Senior Center's monthly lunch and DANCE Noon–3 pm 117 Diamond St. 863-3507

**NOV. 12:** The San Francisco Bicycle Advisory Committee hosts a panel DISCUSSION on the development of SAFE BIKEWAYS in the city 7 pm, Room 1200, 455 Golden Gate Ave. 6217364

**NOV. 12:** The Winds of Freedom, the seated version of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, presents an evening of light CLASSICAL MUSIC by Tchaikovsky, Sousa, and Andrew Lloyd Weber 8–15 pm Bethany Church, 1268 Sanchez St. 621-5619

**NOV. 14:** Irina Robbins, Angela Bocage, Kris Kovick, and Kristen Baumgardner lead a SLIDESHOW on "Women in Cartooning" 8 pm Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 821-4675

**NOV. 15:** The Noe Valley Music Series presents singer/songwriter CLAUDIO SCHMIOT'S only Bay Area CONCERT 8–15 pm First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley 647-2272

**NOV. 15–17:** McAleer High School's School of the Arts presents Federico Garcia Lorca's modern Spanish TRAGEDY, *The House of Bernarda Alba* 7–30 pm, Nov. 17, 2–30 matinee only 555 Portola Dr. 695-5720

**NOV. 16:** Gardeners can learn "Pest Management Without Guilt" at a LECTURE sponsored by the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) 10 am–12:30 pm New College, 777 Valencia St. 468-0110



The Construction Crew Theater takes a multi-disciplinary look at racism in *Department of Fire*, opening Nov. 8 at the New Performance Gallery PHOTO BY NANCY MCNALLY

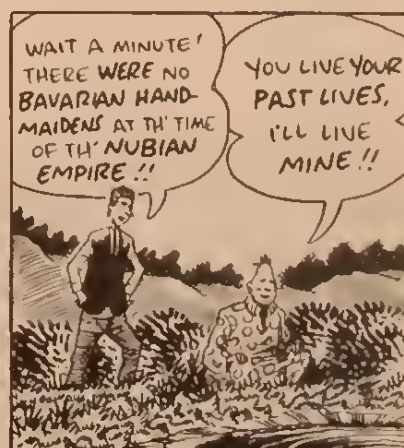
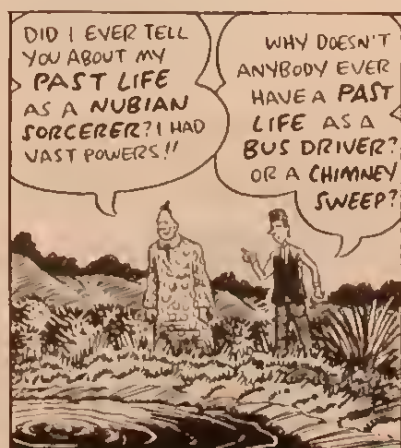
**NOV. 16, 22 & 23:** Bob Ernst, Ruth Zaporah, and Rhiannon perform a concoction of MUSIC, theatre, and movement, "Improvisation From Out of Nowhere" 8 pm New College of California, 777 Valencia St. 524-4528

**NOV. 17:** Young people 10–16 can learn BABYSITTING skills at Natural Resources' "Super Sitters Course" 11 am–5 pm 4081 24th St. 550-2611

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### The Scoop on CALENDAR

Please send calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding the month of issue to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority. Note: The December 1991/January 1992 issue of the *Voice* will hit the streets on Tuesday, Dec. 3. The deadline for calendar items is Nov. 15.